

**Union City Area School District**  
**SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**  
**Middle School/High School Large Group Instruction Room**  
**June 23, 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**

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

**Others Present**

Matthew Bennett, Tara Lineman, Ann Sill, Mike Swanson, Tim Petrilla and Mischeal Knapp.

**Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Bennett reported as follows:

1. Some of the proceeds of the specially marked gas pumps at Country Fair go to the Outdoor Athletic Committee specifically for our kids.
2. The revised District calendar is on the agenda for approval. Changes are minimal and follow the Erie County Technical School.
3. Thermometers were ordered today and coaches will be training for the reopening of athletics.

Mr. Bennett opened the floor for any questions from the Board on these three items. It was mentioned that at the last meeting there was discussion about the Superintendents and Athletic Directors getting together to come up with a common plan for athletics and if this was still the case to which Mr. Bennett replied it is and that by the end of this week everyone should have their plans approved.

*Dr. Miller joined the meeting via Zoom at 6:04 p.m.*

4. Concerning the Phased School Reopening Health and Safety Plan, this is a gigantic document. The state has guidelines and forms that need to be completed. There is minimal time to turn this around and lots of opinions. A survey was sent out first to the Board yesterday, then to teachers, parents and students today. It was prepared in such a way to have everyone in the loop. The survey contains simple yes and no questions along as a rating of feelings of anxiety, etc. with comment boxes under each section. The survey was designed so they can be printed off into spreadsheets including names, contact information and specific concerns. Requests have begun coming in regarding cyber-charter school. Such issues can be addressed personally. This is just the beginning of discussions. Some of the Administrators spent today measuring classrooms, removing unnecessary furniture and setting up the room with sufficient space between desks

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so that everyone who wants to return can do so safely distanced. There were productive committee meetings today. Mr. Bennett's meeting lasted 1-1/2 hours and lots of logistics were discussed. The goal is to have a plan ready to present to the Board by July 9 that they are comfortable approving. Each Local Education Agency School Board decides what the return-to-school plan is. If it is approved at a special meeting planned for July 9, Mr. Bennett will submit it to the PA Department of Education on July 10, and then it is likely he will get a request from the Erie County Department of Health and from County Executor Kathy Dahlkemper's Office for a copy of the plan for them to review. It will be posted on the District website and he will be producing a video for District families with an explanation of the breakdowns of the plan. Anyone uncomfortable with the plan will receive a follow-up call from the team. It will cover everything from masks, cleaning, alternative nurse sites, thermometers, and scanners. There were no questions from the Board.

**Approval of Agenda**

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

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

***ITEMS FOR APPROVAL***

**Academics**

Revised 2020/2021  
District Calendar

Mr. Gilbert moved, Mrs. Thomas seconded to approve the revisions of the 2020/2021 Union City Area School District Calendar, as presented.  
[See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book]

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

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**Co-Curricular**

UCASD  
Resocialization of  
Sports  
Recommendations  
and the Waiver for  
Athletic  
Participation

Mr. Gilbert moved, Mrs. Thomas seconded to approve the Union City Area School District Resocialization of Sports Recommendations and the Waiver for Athletic Participation. [See Supplementals enclosed in the Minutes Book]

It was asked if the waiver was bullet proof or if there was a chance that the District could be sued. Mr. Bennett replied that there's always the potential for litigation but this is as solid as we can get it. It was also asked if spectators would be permitted to which Mr. Bennett replied that this does not address fall sport but only summer workouts. For the summer, no spectators will be permitted; only the student athletes, coaching and school personnel.

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

**Personnel**

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

1. To accept the resignation of David Morris, Middle School Mathematics Teacher, effective immediately. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book]
2. To accept the resignation of Erin Jenkins, High School Art Teacher. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book]

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

**Other Business**

Mr. Gilbert stated that he will be attending the JOC meeting at Erie County Technical School on Thursday evening which was supposed to be in person, but a scare necessitated it to be another Zoom meeting. Mr. Trauner added that the IU Board meeting is tomorrow night

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**Executive Session**

Mr. Trauner announced that following the meeting an Executive Session will be held for the purpose of personnel discussion with no business to follow. Mr. Trauner also added that reports on both of this week's ECTS and IU meetings will be on the agenda for the July 9 Special School Board meeting.

**Adjournment**

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

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

Mr. Trauner adjourned the meeting at 6:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Sill  
School Board Secretary