

Union City Area School District
SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING
Middle School/High School Large Group Instruction Room
June 8, 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, Lori Lewis, Kimberle Thomas, and George Trauner were physically present. Stephen Gilbert and Douglas Hopson attended through Zoom. Brian Gregor, Barbara Miller, David Robinson were absent.

Others Present

Matthew Bennett, Amy Coleman, Tara Lineman, Adam ShROUT, Melissa Tomcho, Ann Sill, Mike Swanson and Mischeal Knapp were physically present. Stacey Mulson, Steve Thompson and Krista Byler attended via Zoom.

Presentations

1. Mrs. Coleman presented information regarding the new **High School English Language Arts and Middle School Math textbooks** as well as information regarding **Keystone Testing**. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book]
 - The High School ELA textbook is from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, is easy to navigate, has many units including grammatical units, it can be read to students and an app for off-line use. Students have access to physical books, and works with whole groups, small groups or independent learning as well as collaborative activities. She is also recommending Read 180 for some of the high school special education students which contains an in-class portion and an online portion.
 - The Middle School Math textbooks are for grades 6-8 and are from the same publisher as the high school textbooks but much less expensive. They are aligned to the common core standards and are downloadable for off-line capability. The sixth graders will all be on the same track with advanced students moving at a faster pace. The 7th and 8th graders will be on two separate tracks. It is interactive even if downloaded and adaptable to student ability.
 - The Keystone exams were put on hold due to COVID-19 but must be offered in the fall. It will have an opt-out capability. There are five pathways to graduation which are explained in her report.

Union City Area School District
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES
COMMITTEE MEETING – June 8, 2020

2. Mrs. Lineman presented information on the **state budget and bill updates** overview. She stated on the plus side, education remains a priority even in these uncertain times, state funding to public schools is not reduced, and there will be financial stability for 2020-2021. State CARES funds will be transferred to the Property Tax Relief Fund and the CARES Act funds will be coming to school districts to supplement funding. On the minus side, revenues are expected to be significantly lower than 2019-2020 and could create shortfalls in the District budget. Additionally, increased costs of state and federal mandates plus COVID-19 expenses will put a strain on budget as will increased cost in cyber charter expenses.

Neither the Senate nor the Governor has approved House Bill 2460 yet which pertains to overriding current tax collection dates. The proposal would give a discount from July 1 through September 30 which is an extension of 30 days from the current end date for a discount. Face would be from October 1 through December 31 with no penalty (currently September 1 through October 31 with a penalty issued from November 1 through December 31) with delinquent taxes from January 1, 2021 until paid. There are three installments offered at face value. Some school districts are eliminating the penalties. Following discussion, it is Mrs. Lineman's recommendation to stay with the current tax collection dates.

She also added that insurance renewal is on the June 11 agenda for approval which is an increase of \$2,928 with Wright's Specialty Insurance.

[See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book]

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Bennett reported as follows:

1. Interested and available Board members were given a **tour of the renovation project** before this evening's board meeting

2. **2020-2021 Outlook**

A survey was given to students as a starting point for 2020/2021. 88.9% of students participated. We will meet all of our students' needs and the results of the survey was as follows:

- 66.7% (580) replied they wanted to return full time
- 18.1% (157) replied they wanted to return in a hybrid form (in-class and cyber)
- 10.1% (88) replied they wanted to return online
- 61.3% (533) replied they would take the bus
- 38.71% (336) replied they don't have reliable high speed internet

Union City Area School District
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES
COMMITTEE MEETING – June 8, 2020

A Reopening Task Force is requested by the state and is broken down into subcommittees. He stated that any Board Members that would like to join a committee to please email Mrs. Coleman. The committees will be as follows:

- **PDE/Health Regulations and Guidelines/ Logistics**

- Legal Requirements and Guidelines
- Spacing in classrooms
- Bussing
- Arrival/Lunch/Restroom/Dismissal

- **Scheduling**

- Elementary
- Secondary
- This will be different from the past.

- **Online Instruction**

- Full time
- Hybrid
- Determining what classes will be in what building. We don't want to lose kids to cyber and will be open to the needs of families and students.

- **Student Accountability**

- Grading
- Attendance
- This has to be thought through carefully. Some students don't have support at home and aren't doing the work.

3. We will be receiving **PDE and CDC guidelines for reopening school**. The Superintendents are currently considering altering the 2020-2021 calendar to align with Vo-Tech calendar which involves approximately 70 of our students. There has been discussion of resuming school in July, but that is unrealistic. There has also been discussion of returning earlier in August then aligning a break over the height of flu season.
4. **Other topics** the Superintendents are working on include masks, A/B day, year-long schedule instead of block scheduling, transportation, lunch, length of the school day, and addressing common areas. He stated he will continue to update all parties as information becomes available. The PDE/Health Guidelines are expected by June 15.

Union City Area School District
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES
COMMITTEE MEETING – June 8, 2020

Mr. Bennett opened the floor for questions which included how the A/B days will work, how busing will work, if masks will be optional and if they will be mandatory or optional for staff and administrators as well as the legality of masks vs. no masks.

In response to these questions, Mr. Bennett replied that right now we only have rough numbers, classrooms are being set up with students six feet apart, and ES and Life Skills students plus students with an IEP will likely be in school every day. If going with A/B days, they have to take in consideration older siblings taking care of younger ones so their schedules must coordinate. We have to strike a balance that everyone can live with and that can work for all families, and we must have a back-up plan. Masks will be looked at and the requirement for staff and administrative mask requirements will be discussed by the superintendents tomorrow. Concerning the legality of masks vs. no masks, the phase we are in at the time may determine that. We have to decide what battles are worth fighting.

5. Mr. Bennett asked if the Board wants to continue streaming the Board meetings live. Following discussion, Mr. Swanson was asked how much work it would involve. He replied that he can do whatever the Board wishes. He added that past streamed Board meetings have been virtually attended by an average of 13-20 people staying online an average of 12-15 minutes. The Board requested that the meetings continue to be live streamed.
6. Finally, Mr. Bennett stated that we need to hold a special meeting toward the end of June to approve the reopening plan and to approve the revised calendar. He stated that Ms. Sill will email the Board date options.

Administrative Reports [See Supplementals enclosed in the Minutes Book]

Mrs. Lineman was asked about the audit finding to which she replied there were several reporting errors from 2014-2018.

Mrs. Coleman was commended for her committee's choice in textbooks.

Mrs. Tomcho added that there were 26 UCASD students who are involved in the Talent Search/Upward Bound program through IU5 as well as RCI. All completed the application process and are qualified to have two RCI classes paid for through these programs. Also, Alicia Ayers of Parker Hannifin, held a silent auction to benefit the Union City Family Support Center, the Union City Food Bank and the UCASD Backpack Program and raised a total of \$894.05. All recipients are grateful for this generosity. Finally, ECTS recognized Union City two seniors - Erynn McChesney who was asked to share her advice for students entering high school next year, and Lucas Thomas, who will be studying Electrical Engineering at Penn State, was awarded a \$150.00 Foundation Award from ECTS.

Union City Area School District
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES
COMMITTEE MEETING – June 8, 2020

Mrs. Byler stated that the summer food service program will be done in conjunction with IU5. There is no cost to the District for the IU coordinating this. Pick up will be at the Middle School/High School Tuesdays and Thursdays. The procedure is still the same – meal requests must be called in or ordered online. Anyone in the community with children age 1-18 is eligible. There are 100 orders for tomorrow.

Representative Reports

Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit Board of Directors

Mr. Trauner reported that their meeting was held virtually. Dr. Maynard will be retiring in October. Since it is such a long process to search for a replacement and hire, the board agreed to offer the position to Brad Whitman who is currently serving as the Assistant Executive Director.

Erie County Technical School Joint Operating Committee

Mr. Gilbert reported that the JOC met online in May and the meeting lasted five hours, concluding at 10:45 p.m. A new treasurer was elected, Mr. Bucksbee from General McLane School District. The Supervisor of Human Resources has given her two-week notice and after 18 years with ECTS, is taking a position with Erie City School District. Dr. Walker stated there are possible upcoming administrative resignations. The new Superintendent of Record will be Mr. Rick Emerick from Ft. LeBoeuf School District. Architect Chris Coughlin will be attending the next meeting to present his design. The Superintendents are invited and may be attending via Zoom. Mr. Gilbert was asked that since several key people may be leaving, if there is a reason. Mr. Gilbert replied that the Business Manager and Principal may be retiring.

Mr. Gilbert added that the fire alarm system update has been completed, 771 students are enrolled and there is the potential for 15 to come for a visit. They don't know how the school schedule will run next year as it is a scheduling nightmare. For the Regional Career and Technical School (Adult Education), some courses will be eliminated as they are not economical. They are competing with the Rural College and possibly with the Erie Community College. Fingerprinting through Ident-Go will be resuming soon but by appointment only (no walk-ins). Finally, Mr. Gilbert was asked about the Administrative Inspection Certificates that haven't been completed by some of the students. He replied that these students will be given the opportunity to get certified at no charge when the school reopens.

Other Business

There were no questions when the Board reviewed the June 11 draft agenda.

Executive Session

Mr. Trauner reminded the Board that an Executive Session for the purpose of Personnel, Legal and the Annual Safety Report discussion would follow adjournment.

Union City Area School District
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES
COMMITTEE MEETING – June 8, 2020

Adjournment

Mr. Blakeslee moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Thomas.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Mr. Trauner declared the meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Sill
School Board Secretary