

Union City Area School District
SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING
Elementary Large Group Instruction Room
March 5, 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, Barbara Miller, David Robinson, Kimberle Thomas, and George Trauner were present. Brian Gregor was absent.

Mr. Trauner announced that if anyone did not sign in to please do so before leaving tonight's meeting.

Others Present

Matthew Bennett, Amy Coleman, Tara Lineman, Adam Shrou, Melissa Tomcho, Daniel Keefer, Stacey Mulson, Amy Webber, Steve Thompson, Krista Byler, Ann Sill, Mischeal Knapp, Denis O'Brien, Frank Snyder, Randall Hurlburt, Nathan DeSimone and Kim DeSimone were present.

Presentations

1. Mr. Denis O'Brien, Clerk of the Works gave a **Renovation Update**. He displayed a color-coded map showing the areas of the building that are finished and those yet to be completed. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book] The next phase will begin on Monday and should be completed the first week of April. The interior and roof are 80-85% complete. Unless there is a lack of cooperation with the weather, the roof should be completed between April 27 and May 4. McCreary Roofing has exceeded his expectations. The concrete will take about three weeks to complete which again is weather dependent and the paving should take about five dry days. It is yet to be determined when the asphalt plant will open. He heard it would be the day after Easter and from another source mid-May. The whole project has been a team effort with incredible cooperation from all staff. He was asked about the roofing quality and he replied that we have a 90-mil roof which is the thickest available. Consultant John Stehli has done a wonderful job and brings years of experience and expertise.
2. Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Lineman gave the **Metasys Report**. Mr. Thompson distributed a handout to the Board. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book] He stated that this system, which heats and cools the building, is 24-26 years old and is failing. He has had vendors in and they all point to the Metasys as the culprit. Parts are no longer available. It has been replaced at the Middle School/High School and he would like to replace the system at the Elementary School with the same unit so they can be programmed to work together. The cost to replace it would be \$34,440. Mr. Bennett reminded the Board that the replacement for this unit was originally part of the Middle School/High School

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Renovation but it was put on hold to determine where we stood financially. Currently it has to be manually adjusted by climbing onto the roof. Mrs. Lineman's recommendation is to bid it out and use the capital improvement fund which totals \$900,000. It was asked that if the Metasys is the brains of the unit, what about the "arms and legs?" She stated we would check as we go. We are currently at the 20-year mark and what we have is compatible with the new Metasys.

3. Mrs. Lineman gave a PowerPoint of the **Financial Updates**. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book] She distributed a folder to each Board member that contained the proposed 2020-2021 budget for them to review for next week's presentation, the Single Audit Report for year ending June 30, 2019, and some index cards on which they are to write questions. She referred them to pages 20 and 42 of the audit report for more detail on her report. [See Supplementals enclosed in the Minutes Book] After reviewing the PowerPoint, she stated that the Audit Report for year ended June 30, 2019 and the AFR would be on the April agenda for approval. Mr. Trauner asked the Board to pass any completed index cards to Mrs. Coleman and if they had questions before next week's meeting to email them to Mrs. Lineman.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Bennett reported the following:

1. He along with some administrators and teachers attended the NISL (National Institute for School Leadership) training on February 25 and 26. He stated that we were the only District with more teachers than administrators present. It was a great session with everyone working together for the best possible schedule for our students and to best meet their needs. A survey will be developed to gather information. The next training session is March 10 and 11 and then the committee will be expanded to include additional faculty, Board members and community members so we can all work together to meet the needs of the students.
2. He distributed a flyer about ESS, a substitute teacher staffing agency. He stated that we continue to have trouble filling our absences. ESS is confident they can fill our openings consistently. They offer incentives, handle PSERS, are online and share data trends. Millcreek Twp. School District went from a 50% fill average to the high 70's in one month and have stayed there. The cost is 32% of our sub pay with an actual projected cost savings of about \$5,000 per year as PSERS rate is 34% so it's just about a wash. They also recruit those who hold teaching certificates but are not currently teaching. Teachers can still request specific substitutes. This would move Miss Blystone to regular office hours which will be a big help in the Elementary Office. This program, which originated in Pittsburgh, is available for a one-year trial. Warren County, Ft. LeBoeuf and Harbor Creek are all considering this company as Kelly Services' fill rate is declining.

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3. Representative Curt Sonney will be visiting the District on Monday morning at 8:30 a.m. for an hour visit. Mr. Bennett will be sharing with him our renovations and PlanCon and show that we are using our money wisely. Mrs. Coleman will be sharing with him our cyber services program. They will take him to the outdoor concession stand and show him its condition and explain that the community will be working to rebuild it. He added that Mr. Sonney is opposed to charter schools.

Administrative Reports [See Supplementals enclosed in the Minutes Book]

Mrs. Lineman added that the proposed 2020-2021 IU budget is \$61.8 million with the District's share being \$14,000 - no increase from 2019-2020. She was asked about LERTA and a ten-year exemption. Mrs. Lineman stated that it is a five-year exemption. She was also asked if under LERTA application had to be made for housing construction to which she replied affirmatively - for both residential and non-residential construction. Finally, she was asked about the new LECOM building and Mrs. Lineman stated it was already done.

Mrs. Coleman was asked to explain the Financial Reality Fair for which volunteers are needed. She explained that there will be various stations around the gym. The 10th grade students are given an occupation a salary, and a budget and have to determine how they will spend their money. A financial counselor teaches them how to budget for necessities, not just for wants. The program will last an hour and there will be morning and afternoon sessions. Mrs. Coleman added that a school security grant was received for \$30,000 which will be used to purchase secondary surveillance cameras and walkie-talkies.

Mrs. Tomcho was thanked for providing the mentoring program using the kids as resources. The first to mentor was the swim team followed by various sports teams.

Mr. Shrouf was thanked for continuing the Career Café and was asked to consider bringing in Erie County Technical Students to present information about technical careers to the fifth graders. He thought that was an excellent idea and said that the students came up with some great questions.

Mr. Thompson was asked about the clearing of the auxiliary gym. He stated that the coaches may now use one side of the gym but activities have to be monitored by a coach. He was asked about the heat issues in the auditorium. He stated that a bleeder valve, which is part of the new system, had popped open and some of the dry wall was ruined. An insurance adjuster was called in to obtain an estimate.

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Representative Reports

Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit Board of Directors

Mr. Trauner reported that the \$61-million 2020-2021 budget is not funded with state money but supported by the school districts and provides services to the districts. He added that there is no tax funding for Intermediate Units. Several years ago the IU was accused of hoarding money. At the end of the year, all money is reconciled.

Erie County Technical School Joint Operating Committee

Mr. Gilbert reported the following as a result of their meeting last Thursday:

1. There is no new news on the roundabout from the state.
2. The renovation architect is behind schedule. No drawings have been submitted which they had hoped to have by April. Payment is being held. There was lengthy discussion of the \$32-million project which was originally scheduled to be done in 3-4 phases.
3. Dr. Walker is considering adding two more classes – one dealing with the health care industry and one for pharmacy technician with a sponsorship by a pharmacy chain.
4. ECTS received a safety and security grant for \$225,000.
5. During the second quarter, 188 students achieved the honor roll which is 28%; 193 students had perfect attendance and 85 had distinguished recognition. Fifteen of these students were from Union City.
6. ECTS is working on updating their policies.
7. As of February 5 there were 364 new applications for students wanting to attend ECTS next year. Applications are being accepted through May 1.
8. There are only two courses operating at full capacity out of the twelve available. It was asked if ECTS will be presenting at the District's Job and Career Fair. Mr. Bennett stated that this fair is for juniors and seniors so it's too late for them to decide to attend ECTS. ECTS comes in and presented to our 9th graders.
9. Field trips are taken to some nice manufacturing facilities.
10. A couple of courses have seen a decline in enrollment. One class only has three students. Hospitality and Tourism is low as is an Electronics course.
11. UCASD January students of the month were Alex Smith (Construction), Lindsey Vaughan (Culinary Arts) and Leanna McChesney (Tourism). February Pride student was Misty Myers.
12. A dinner will be held at the March 26 meeting with the superintendents being invited.

The following was mentioned by various Board members:

- Kyle Blakeslee had mentioned to a Board member that at his place of business they start electricians at \$32/hour.
- The Electrical Engineering class is at capacity. A field trip has been taken to Niagara Falls and one is scheduled for Cedar Point, both of which go behind the scenes to learn about electricity.
- It was asked how many of our ECTS students are seniors. Mr. Bennett will get the figures.

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Other Business

1. Mr. Trauner presented the first reading of the revisions to PSBA Policy 222 (Tobacco and Vaping Products, formerly titled Tobacco/Nicotine).
2. Mr. Trauner asked the Board to access the link to the draft agenda. There was considerable discussion on the Empower Erie Community College regarding the need for a community college in our area and the comparison of a community college with NPRC (Northern PA Regional College) which holds classes here at our District. It was stated that the two entities serve two different functions and both are needed; that much of the negative discussion on the community college is political; and that Senator Scarnati is working to block the community college. It was reiterated that both the Regional College and Community College are needed. Community colleges work with industries. There was further discussion. One important benefit is that students can attend a community college for one or two years at a very low cost, then attend a four-year college for their remaining years saving considerable tuition expenses.
3. Mr. Gilbert stated he forgot to mention in his report that the ECTS JOC meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.
4. The Board was reminded to send any questions regarding the 2020-2021 Preliminary Budget to Mrs. Lineman.

Executive Session

Mr. Trauner reminded the Board that an Executive Session for the purpose of Personnel, Legal, Student Discipline and Safety and Security discussion would follow adjournment and would not be returning.

Adjournment

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

The motion to adjourn was unanimously approved.

Mr. Trauner declared the meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Sill
School Board Secretary