

Union City Area School District
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Virtual Meeting
November 24, 2020

President George Trauner called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. He welcomed those those attending online and gave the following announcement:

- Tonight's meeting is being broadcast as a live YouTube stream via the link in the banner of the home page of the District website. Additionally, Zoom is hosting and being utilized by those providing public comment.
- My fellow Board members and the Administrators are attending via Zoom or by phone from their homes to comply with the social distancing requirements. A test was conducted through both mediums prior to tonight's meeting for technology set-up only and no business was discussed.
- As always, an opportunity for Public Comment will take place tonight during the meeting. Due to tonight's format, those wishing to comment to the Board are asked to pre-register no later than 6:10 p.m. tonight by accessing the Zoom registration information located in the link in the banner at the top of the homepage of the District website (www.ucasd.org).
- Tonight's meeting is being recorded and will be available on the District website by next Monday, November 30, 2020, via a link under the Quick Links box from the home page.
- If the December 3 Reorganization and Regular School Board meetings also require social distancing, notice will be placed on the District website the format will be the same as tonight's meeting and will be publicized live on our website.

Mr. Trauner then led the salute to the flag and a moment of silence.

Roll Call by the Secretary

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

Others Present

Matthew Bennett, Amy Coleman, Tara Lineman, Ann Sill, Daniel Keefer, Stacey Mulson and Mike Swanson were present via Zoom.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Bennett reported as follows:

1. Health Data and Education Update
 - Erie, Crawford and Warren Counties are all considered substantial risk counties. Union City fares far better in Erie County and was considered moderate at one point by Mainline Mama due to the seven rolling-day average.
 - We are currently wrapping up a five-day virtual setting.

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- Erie Technical School Students are still attending classes.
- RCI students are attending classes.
- Alt. Ed attending classes are online due to pandemic issues.
- Extra-curricular is continuing, but under more stringent protocols. In particular, masking has been ramped up.
- We look forward to returning to in-person on December 1.

2. Update on Virtual

- Early Dismissal days – Mrs. Coleman emailed the Board about the valuable things that took place on the two early dismissal days. There were many positive comments.
- The Health and Safety Plan will be updated with items that have been added for the Board to approved tonight.
- 5 Day Trial –
 - The Custodial Department has wrapped up the first round of deep cleaning and are into the second round which they will continue throughout the break.
 - Attendance has only dropped by 1-2%. which has been 95-96% ; 93-94% when both buildings are taken into account.
 - The Internet Café has been a huge success and we learned a lot about the community we are serving. It was discovered that some families who have internet service did not have the capacity to handle the online instruction.
 - In person attendance - The secondary averaged about 14 students per day and the elementary averaged about 25 students per day. Some special needs students attended in person. There were 2,254 meals service in the five days.
 - We look forward to students returning on December 1.

Mr. Bennett asked if there were any questions from the Board at this point. There were none.

3. Attestation Form

- This form was received yesterday from PDE. Mr. Trauner and Mr. Bennett are required to sign this form. Even though it doesn't require Board approval, it has been placed on the agenda as all decisions that have been made regarding this pandemic has been done as a team and he wants to continue on that path.

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- The form states that the Superintendent and Board President understand that we are in the substantial risk category and we attest that we are following and enforcing the following:
 - The updated mask order
 - The new guidance on positives and probables in a building and what needs to be done if you get a certain number of positives in a building of a certain size which we have been conforming to the entire time..
 - There are two options ; (1) 100% virtual – no internet café, not allowing brick and mortar for special needs students and everyone stays home, or (2) Some or all of students are receiving instruction in the buildings.
 - Our Solicitor was contacted and his statement is, “From a liability perspective, the safest thing to do is for the District to go 100% remote learning. “ However, Mr. Bennett believes in his opinion this is not plausible for equity sake, especially with our special education students as well as our internet connectivity issues. Attorney Joseph added that he would agree that if we follow the mask order and the new community spread guidance and we are able to do so strictly and without reservation, we could remain open and still comply with the order. Mr. Bennett also learned of HB 1737 which provides some limited liability protections for school districts if they follow the State recommendations. Governor Wolf has not yet signed the bill but if he does, districts that remain open and strictly follow State guidelines should be protected. Approximately 95% are choosing to follow the State recommendations.

Mr. Bennett asked if there were any questions. He was asked that if they sign the form that we are staying open, are we included in the liability. Mr. Bennett responded that yes, we would fall under the protection. As bills come up, they have to be reviewed by the attorneys as items are added and subtracted with each update. There were no other questions.

4. Erie County Technical School

- A meeting has been scheduled for December 15th to include Business Managers, JOC members, and Superintendents. Millcreek has requested a meeting to discuss the current formula and renovations. Mr. Gilbert added that is accurate and that this discussion has not been brought up in a year when Millcreek was shot down by the rest of the JOC. His personal opinion is that Millcreek is trying to stop the renovation. Approximately, \$650,000 has already been invested into the renovation project already. Mr. Gilbert said he will be attending. He feels that the funding formula should not be changed

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now but should have been done so before moving forward with the renovation project. Mr. Bennett stated has already informed the PAC Superintendents that Union City is not interested in changing the formula.

Approval of Agenda

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

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

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Gilbert moved, Mr. Hopson seconded to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting, the October 1, 2020 Special meeting, and the October 8, 2020 Regular Board meeting.

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

Approval of Treasurer's Report

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

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

Approval of Check List

Mr. Gilbert moved, Dr. Miller seconded to approve the Checks for Board Approval – November 24, 2020, Checks Between Board Meetings – October 2020, Athletic Checks – October 2020, Procurement Card Listing – October 2020, and Construction Project Checks for Board Approval – November 24, 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, Barbara Miller, David Robinson and Kimberle Thomas vote yes. George Trauner voted yes for all items except for Vendor Check 4053 from which he abstained. Brian Gregor was absent. Motion carried.

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ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

Academics

Mr. Hopson moved, Mrs. Thomas seconded to approve Academic items 1-3 as follows:

MOU – UC Police
and PSP

1. The Memorandum of Understanding by and between the Union City Police Department and the Pennsylvania State Police and the Union City Area School District, effective immediately. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book]

Updated UCASD
Health and Safety
Plan

2. The updated Union City Area School District Health and Safety Plan. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book]

Attestation
Ensuring
Implementation of
Mitigation Efforts

3. Signing of the document “Attestation Ensuring Implementation of Mitigation Efforts.” [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book]

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

Buildings and Grounds

Seek Bids Athletic
Complex Concession
Stand

Mr. Hopson moved, Mr. Gilbert seconded to approve seeking bids for the Athletic Complex Concession Stand.

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

Co-Curricular

Mrs. Lewis moved, Mrs. Thomas seconded to approve Co-Curricular items 1-3 as follows:

Ward, Myers –
Cheer Co-Advisors

1. Dana Ward and Megan Myers as Basketball Cheerleader Co-Advisors, splitting the stipend with each receiving \$855.50, retroactive to the beginning of the 2020/2021 winter sports season.

Jones resignation

2. To accept the resignation of Marlee Jones, Junior High Wrestling Cheerleader Advisor and Junior High Basketball Cheerleader Advisor, effective immediately. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book]

(continued, next page)

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Logsdon – JH Cheer
Advisor

3. Motion to approve Samantha Logsdon as Junior High Basketball Cheerleader Advisor and Junior High Wrestling Cheerleader Advisor, at a stipend of \$789.00 for each position, pending receipt of remaining employment documents.

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

Personnel

Dr. Miller moved, Mr. Gilbert seconded to approve Personnel items 1-3 as follows:

Support Staff
Substitute List
Additions

1. The following additions to the District Support Staff Substitute list for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year: Michael Cole (Custodian, pending receipt of remaining employment documents), and Susan Wilcox (Cafeteria).

Lineman – contract
7/1/21-5/30/24

2. To re-appoint Tara L. Lineman as Business Manager of the Union City Area School District, effective July 1, 2021, for a three-year term ending June 30, 2024, pursuant to the terms of the employment contract, as presented. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book]

Hasbrouck –
custodian for
remainder of
2020/2021

3. Joshua Hasbrouck as full-time custodian for the remainder of the 2020/2021 school year only, at an hourly rate of \$9.00, effective immediately.

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

Policy
PSBA Policy
Revisions – 2nd
reading

Mr. Trauner presented the second reading of the revisions of PSBA policies 113.1 “Discipline of Students with Disabilities,” 113.2 “Behavior Support,” 113.4 “Confidentiality of Special Education Student Information,” 122 “Extracurricular Activities,” 123 “Interscholastic Athletics,” and 123.2 “Sudden Cardiac Arrest.”

The Board had no questions or comments.

[See Supplementals enclosed in the Minutes Book]

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**PSBA Policy
Revisions**

Dr. Miller moved, Mrs. Thomas seconded to approve the revisions of PSBA policies 113.1 “Discipline of Students with Disabilities,” 113.2 “Behavior Support,” 113.4 “Confidentiality of Special Education Student Information,” 122 “Extracurricular Activities,” 123 “Interscholastic Athletics,” and 123.2 “Sudden Cardiac Arrest.”

[See Supplementals enclosed in the Minutes Book]

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

Financial Reports

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

Other Business

The Board reviewed the proposed 2021 School Board dates as presented. Mr. Trauner confirmed with Ms. Sill that the Board would be approving this calendar at the Reorganization meeting on December 3. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book]

Mr. Trauner stated that should the December 3 Board meetings also be virtual, the Board would be informed.

Mr. Blakeslee stated that he needed the code for Executive Session. Mr. Swanson stated he would provide it for him.

Executive Session

Mr. Trauner announced that following adjournment an Executive Session will be held for the purpose of legal, personnel and contract discussion with no business taking place afterward.

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Adjournment

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

Mr. Trauner wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

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

Mr. Trauner adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Sill
School Board Secretary