

Union City Area School District
SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING
Middle School/High School Large Group Instruction Room
November 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

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

Others Present

Matthew Bennett, Amy Coleman, Tara Lineman, Adam Shrout, Melissa Tomcho, Daniel Keefer, Stacey Mulson, Steve Thompson, Krista Byler, (via Zoom), Ann Sill, Mike Swanson, Nathan DeSimone, Maryann Mook, Tonya Kerns, Jeanie Kesselring, Kim Uber, Steve Yovich, Miles McCaslin, Cole DeSimone, Tyler Parkhurst and Joshua James were present.

Presentation

Mr. DeSimone introduced Head Golf Coach Steve Yovich who led the boys' team to the region championship. He asked Coach Yovich to introduce the team. Coach Yovich stated it's been his pleasure to coach these young men who are not only extremely athletic but quality individuals who won the Region 3 Tournament. He introduced the boys as follows: - Juniors – Tyler Parkhurst and Cole DeSimone as well as Matthew Bennett and Matt Yapple would could not attend. Sophomore golfers are Josh James and Miles McCaslin and one Freshman, Brady Blakeslee, who also could not be here. He also added that the four Juniors were also inducted into the National Honor Society.

Public Comment

Mr. Trauner recognized **Jeanie Kesselring**, asked her to state her address, and informed her she had five minutes to speak. Mrs. Kesselring spoke to the Board concerning the end of season banquets for fall sports teams, the change in what's permitted this year with the pandemic and social distancing requirements with parents only being able to attend virtually, previously requesting to hold the Football banquet off campus with restrictions, and the seeming hypocrisy of allowing the Boys Basketball team to practice in Corry. Mr. Trauner thanked her for her comments.

Administrative Reports [See Supplementals enclosed in the Minutes Book]

Mrs. Coleman was asked the enrollment of Cub Club. She replied that Wednesdays are their biggest day which is when they do Science and there are about 18 students. The other days fluctuate between 13 and 15.

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Mrs. Tomcho announced congratulations to Landon Myer who made state qualifications for Cross Country for the third time and would be competing that weekend. Also, Mr. Tarasovich, Erie County Technical School Principal, notified her that Misty Myers is being recognized as Pride Student of the Month.

Mr. Keefer stated that he has been assisting Mr. Skindell with attendance for the Middle School High School. One of the biggest problems is that parents don't send in excuses when their child is absent or don't realize their child has not been attending school. Daily reminder phone calls will be instituted and he distributed the Global call that will go out to all families on Friday stating that if their child is absent the first three periods of any day, they will receive a phone call at noon with a reminder to send in an excuse. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book] After five days, unexcused absences move the student to being truant so it is believed that this reminder will encourage the parents to be sure their child is in school and to get their excuses submitted on time. He responded to questions about this from the Board and said PowerSchool can be set up to generate the report and the automated phone calls can be set up through Blackboard which takes 10-15 minutes total. Mr. Bennett clarified that this is mostly targeted for students that are habitually truant and parents who fail to submit excuses, not for parents whose child is actually at home because of illness. The District works with students who have accumulated sick days. Mr. Trauner commended the District and staff and which is being done here to keep students safe

Mr. Shroul was asked what happened to the bees to which he replied that Mr. Thompson contacted a local beekeeper who moved them to a hive. Mr. Shroul added that Erie News Now will be coming on November 13 to do the live broadcast outside at 6 a.m. for "How Cool Is Your School" with a few staff members.

Mrs. Mulson was asked to explain the changes for the Community School Based Behavioral Health team. She stated they met recently and the regulations are getting more stringent. Currently they have about 25 students, hope to have 40 by the end of the month and 48 by the end of December which is an extremely high case load for the mental health workers. They will meet again mid-November to come up with a matrix and discuss reimbursement. They are overcoming obstacles.

Mrs. Byler was thanked for tonight's treat.

Executive Session

Mr. Trauner recessed the Board into Executive Session for the purpose of Personnel and Legal discussion at 6:25 p.m. The meeting was called back to order at 7:24 p.m.

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Superintendent's Report

Mr. Bennett reported as follows:

1. Substitutes - things are much better since Board agreed to adding the two daily substitutes for each building. They will be shared between buildings when needed.
2. The District website has been cleaned up and is now much easier to navigate. COVID-19 announcements took its toll.
3. Health and Safety Plan – he asked if there were any questions on the updates to the Health and Safety Plan or on the Winter Sports Plan. A global will go out tomorrow explaining a couple of new things to help keep us rolling. In addition to the daily cleaning there will be two days in November when school will be released two hours early to give teachers time to learn more about technology, communicate with parent and do some extra deep cleaning.
4. The 502.1 Plan is an Emergency plan that will allow instruction to happen on-line on weather or COVID days that will count and will not need to be made up. We have the technology and by utilizing it we will not need to be making up snow days.
5. Concession Stand/Restrooms –Mr. Bennett has received a couple inquiries from Board members to see if the District could go out to bid to see what it would cost to replace the concession stand. This would take the pressure off Outdoor Athletic Committee to have the building ready for the fall of 2021 as it's a large mountain to climb depending on fundraisers alone. The Board agreed to going out to bid.

Representative Reports

Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit Board of Directors

Mr. Trauner reported that Mr. Whitman, the new Executive Director, stated that per legislation, all School Board members' email addresses must be on the website. We are in compliance. He also believes that each Board member's term should be listed. It has been like any other School District in that their teachers have to follow multiple plans as some work in several districts.

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Erie County Technical School Joint Operating Committee

Mr. Gilbert reported that he was out of town when the last JOC meeting occurred, but he gave the following highlights:

1. Dr. Walker and Solicitor Sennett met with PennDOT representatives to agree upon a price as discussed by the JOC and also to provide a barrier to separate the parking lot from the roundabout. PennDOT asked that ECTS develop a cost estimate and they would discuss it.
2. The hybrid schedule is working well. They are using the same hybrid schedule with the second quarter as they did with the first quarter.
3. Last year's seniors have all completed their automotive inspections and emissions testing.
4. A new course was presented to the JOC which is entitled Electro-Mechanical Engineering Technology which is drone technology. Two superintendents have responded favorably. They are awaiting additional responses.
5. Dr. Walker and Mr. Tarasovich are doing the teacher evaluations.
6. Two students were accepted into the Technical School National Honor Society – Misty Myers in Graphic Communications and Leanna McChesney in Tourism and Hospitality Management.
7. Enrollment is still dropping due to the pandemic, down to 691 students. Students don't feel they are getting out of the hybrid schedule what they need. The marketing team is preparing approximately 2,000 letters to be sent to current freshmen and are developing a recruitment video. By the end of January they hope to have all of the applications back for the 2021/2022 school year.
8. A special meeting is scheduled for December 13.

Other Business

Mr. Trauner presented the first 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." There was no discussion.

Mr. Trauner asked if there were any additional questions to the updated UCASD Health and Safety Plan (including Winter Sports Plan) and the 520.1 Emergency Instructional Time Template as presented by Mr. Bennett during his report. There were none.

Mr. Trauner asked the Board to review the November 24, 2020 draft agenda and asked if there were any questions at this time. There were no questions. Mr. Trauner stated if there were future questions to contact him or Mr. Bennett.

Special Meeting

Mr. Trauner reminded the Board that upon adjournment of this meeting, he would be calling to order the Special meeting.

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Adjournment

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

Mr. Trauner declared the meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Sill
School Board Secretary