

Union City Area School District
SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Virtual Meeting
December 30, 2020

President George Trauner called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. The salute to the flag and a moment of silence were observed.

Mr. Trauner 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, the Superintendent, the Board Secretary, and various Administrators are attending via Zoom or by phone from their homes. 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. Those wishing to comment regarding tonight's meeting need 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, January 4, 2021, via a link under the Quick Links box from the home page.
- The January 2021 meetings will also be held virtually. Notice will be publicized on our website prior to each meeting.

Motion to Suspend

Dr. Miller moved, Mr. Hopson seconded to suspend the operation of the provision of Policy 006.1 which states "A majority of Board members shall be physically present at a Board meeting when Board member(s) attend through electronic communication." This suspension shall be in effect until the next meeting of the Board.

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.

Roll Call by the Secretary

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

Others Present

Matthew Bennett, Amy Coleman, Tara Lineman, Ann Sill and Mike Swanson via Zoom.

Union City Area School District
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING – December 30, 2020

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Bennett presented his report as follows:

1. Governor Wolf made an announcement today that the restrictions will be eased and athletics will be permitted to resume on Monday, January 4, 2021.
2. Updates to the Health and Safety Plan include the following:
 - Removing the current language of quarantining the contact of a contact. In other words, if someone's spouse came in contact with a potential probable, we will no longer be quarantining them.
 - If household member tests negative - they can return
 - Changing the quarantine length
 - Change from 14 days to 10 days with monitoring of systems on days 11-14 to be consistent with the Department of Health
 - Parents will need to agree to report temperature and any symptoms to the school each day prior to student reporting
 - If this does not happen, a checks and balance measure will be to have that student escorted to nurse to have their temperature taken and checked for symptoms.

Mr. Bennett explained that the tracking chart has been shared with the principals and nurses and once attendance is taken the nurses will record the temperatures and symptoms. We will be following the same plan and will have our own checks and balances for the health and safety of everyone. The updates have been made so the District is on the same page as the Department of Health. There were no questions.

3. The local health data is as follows:
 - Main Line Mama was updated today. The level of transmission remains at Substantial. There were 48 tests in the past seven days with 18 of them being positive making the positivity rate 37.5% and the incident rate 226.67.
 - COVID 19 Early Dashboard over the most recent seven-day calculation (12/18-12/24) was as follows:
 - Erie County remains substantial with a positivity rate of 19.5%, and an incident rate per 100,000 of 487.8,
 - Crawford County also remains substantial with a positivity rate of 22.1% and an incident rate per 100,000 of 442.
4. Other Information:
 - At this time we would not have any faculty or staff under quarantine upon return to school on January 4, 2021.

Union City Area School District
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING – December 30, 2020

- At this time we have only had one family put information into our online tracker who was probable but they would be cleared before we return to school.
- To date have been over 430 quarantines since the beginning of school. Out of those 430, there were only 21 positive cases and 7 probable cases so that shows we are being very responsible with precautions.
- Mr. Bennett has gathered the return to school plans from other surrounding district's return plans

His recommendation to the School Board is to return to in-person classes on Monday, January 4, adding that parents will have the option to Zoom in if they are uncomfortable with their children returning physically to school. If the Board is agreeable, he will put a global out this evening so parents can begin planning. He gave the Board the opportunity for comments or questions. There were none.

5. Payroll motion: Mr. Bennett asked Mrs. Lineman to explain the payroll motion on tonight's agenda. Mrs. Lineman stated that the motion authorizes the District to start ACH direct deposit starting in January due to changing payroll companies from ADP to ProSoft which will be a significant cost savings to the District. The motion authorizes her to sign the form and the agreement for ACH. There were no questions.

6. ECTS motions:

- Sale of Property to PennDOT – Mr. Bennett explained that this is a straight forward motion making a sale to PennDOT for the construction of a roundabout which is for the safety of students driving as well as the buses. In the agreement they will put a protective wall around the roundabout. Mr. Gilbert added that the cost was set by PennDot and the amount can either be accepted they will claim eminent domain and will be given half the amount offered.
- Renovation and Funding Formula – Mr. Bennett stated that he, Mrs. Lineman and Mr. Gilbert attending a meeting a couple of weeks ago regarding changing the funding formula as requested by Millcreek Township School District. It was a lengthy meeting with many comments and ultimately decided to present this to the various school boards for a definitive answer. Mr. Gilbert added that he doesn't believe it will move forward and that if it were up to only the JOC it would not be approved and it was done to appease Millcreek.

Union City Area School District
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING – December 30, 2020

Mr. Bennett explained each question in the motion:

1. Do you agree to the Millcreek Township School District proposal to change the capital outlay formula?

Under the current formula, the District's share is just over \$800,000. Under the proposed formula, the District's share would increase an addition \$400,000.

2. If you answered Question #1 with "No," would you agree to consider changing the capital outlay formula for the future if the change would not affect the currently proposed \$32.5 million capital project?

Mr. Bennett read the final paragraph in tonight's motion and explained that the statement that has been drafted by our Solicitor and added to the end of our resolution stating that we may consider it in the future but the Board would like the JOC to seek independent counsel from a neutral party. Mr. Gilbert added that if the Board responds to this question with a "Yes" we are not obligated to the change but are just willing to consider it. He further added that he believes that would into a capital project where all eleven districts would have to agree to the change in order to proceed.

3. Do you agree to pay your proportionate share, based upon the current capital outlay formula of the following additional expenses which would all the Erie County Technical School to solicit bids on the \$32.5 million capital project?

Mr. Bennett reassured the Board that the money is already set aside for this project so they can vote "yes" with confidence and it would be under the current formula.

There were no questions from the Board. Mr. Bennett explained that when the motion is presented, their vote for each question will be recorded.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Robinson 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.

Union City Area School District
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING – December 30, 2020

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

Academics

Updated Health and
Safety Plan

Dr. Miller moved, Mr. Hopson seconded to approve the updated Union City Area School District Health and Safety Plan, as presented.

[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.

Finance

ACH Services for
District Payroll

Mr. Robinson moved, Mrs. Lewis seconded to approve the following resolution:

The Union City Area School District Board of Directors authorizes the Business Manager to approve adding ACH services and sign agreements needed for the District account ending in 6524 with Northwest Bank for purposes of payroll direct deposit and authorizes the Business Office staff (Tara Lineman, Janet Gregor, and Joanna Butcher) to send the ACH files to Northwest for the District's payroll services.

[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.

ECTS PennDOT
Settlement for
Roundabout

Mr. Robinson moved, Mr. Gilbert seconded to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Millcreek Township School District, the Fairview School District, the Northwestern School District, the Fort LeBoeuf School District, the General McLane School District, the Girard School District, the Harbor Creek School District, the Iroquois School District, the North East School District, the Union City Area School District, and the Wattsburg Area School District (the “School Districts”) are owners of a 2.445 acre portion of real property located at 8500 Oliver Road, Erie, PA 16509 with said property being more particularly described as recorded at Erie County Recorder of Deeds Book No. 1210, Page 209 and Book No. 1493, Page 446 (the “Property”); and

WHEREAS, the School Districts utilizes the Property for the purposes of the operations of the Erie County Technical School (“ECTS”); and

Union City Area School District
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING – December 30, 2020

WHEREAS, on November 9, 2020, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (“PennDOT”) filed a Declaration of Taking for the Property in the Court of Common Pleas of Erie County, planning to condemn the Property for the expansion of the PennDOT right-of-way of State Route 4008; and

WHEREAS, the School Districts, ECTS, and PennDOT have proceeded to negotiate a settlement of the matter in lieu of proceeding in the Court of Common Pleas and have reached a settlement in the amount of \$60,216 for the Property; and

WHEREAS, the School Districts believe that reaching settlement in this matter will be beneficial for the operations of ECTS and its students.

NOW THEREFORE, be it **RESOLVED** by the Board of School Directors of the School Districts, Erie County, Pennsylvania as follows:

1. The School Districts hereby approve the settlement with PennDOT for the Property, as memorialized on PennDOT Form RW-313 and PennDOT Form RW-334. PennDOT Forms RW-313 and RW-334 are attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit A and Exhibit B respectively.
2. The School Districts hereby authorize Dr. H. Fred Walker, the Executive Director of ECTS, to execute any and all documentation on behalf of the School Districts that is necessary to effectuate the settlement and condemnation of the Property to PennDOT.
3. PennDOT is directed to issue the settlement check in the amount of \$60,216 made payable to ECTS. ECTS will retain the \$60,216 settlement amount and the participating school districts will be credited with this payment towards their capital contributions for future capital projects of ECTS in accordance with the current capital outlay formula.
4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

[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.

Union City Area School District
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING – December 30, 2020

ECTS
Questionnaire
Resolution for
Funding Formula

Dr. Miller moved, Mrs. Lewis seconded to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED by the Joint Operating Committee of the Erie County Technical School at their meeting of December 15, 2020, that the following questionnaire be submitted to the participating school district boards for their response at their upcoming December 2020 or January 2021 meetings:

The Millcreek Township School District has proposed a modification of the current capital outlay formula which will affect the currently proposed \$32.5 million capital project, asset allocation and capital contribution of the Erie County Technical school for the future. The Millcreek Township School District proposal is attached hereto.

Question #1. Do you agree to the Millcreek Township School District proposal to change the capital outlay formula?

0 voted Yes; 8 voted No

Question #2. If you answered Question #1 with “No,” would you agree to consider changing the capital outlay formula for the future if the change would not affect the currently proposed \$32.5 million capital project?

8 voted Yes; 0 voted No

Question #3. Do you agree to pay your proportionate share, based upon the current capital outlay formula of the following additional expenses which would allow the Erie County Technical School to solicit bids on the \$32.5 million capital project?

\$80,000 – Summit Township Developer’s Agreement Escrow, BIU Uniform Construction Code Review of Plans and Specifications, Stormwater Engineering, Core Borings, Infiltration Test, Erie County Permit, Flow Test and other expenses.

8 voted Yes; 0 voted No

In completing the Questionnaire, the Board recognizes that the proposed change to the funding formula will affect the member districts differently, with some proposed to pay more and others less. The Board further understands that the revision to the funding formula proposed by the Millcreek Township School District would result in a higher payment by this District, so it certainly has an interest in what

Union City Area School District
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING – December 30, 2020

may ultimately be recommended by the Joint Operating Committee. Therefore, this Board recommends that the Joint Operating Committee seek independent legal counsel to advise it on any change in the formula before it proceeds to propose a revised funding formula for the consideration of the member districts.

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.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Executive Session

Mr. Trauner announced that following the meeting an Executive Session will be held for the purpose of discussion of contractual matters with no business to follow.

Adjournment

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

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 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Sill
School Board Secretary