

**Union City Area School District**  
**SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Virtual Meeting**  
**January 7, 2021**

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 through Zoom. Brian Gregor was absent.

**Others Present**

Matthew Bennett, Amy Coleman, Tara Lineman, Melissa Tomcho, Daniel Keefer, Adam Shroul, Stacey Mulson, Amy Webber, Steve Thompson, Krista Byler, Shelby Malone Ann Sill, and Michael Swanson were present via Zoom.

Mr. Trauner read the following announcement:

- Tonight's meetings are 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 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](http://www.ucasd.org)).
- Tonight's meeting is being recorded and will be available on the District website by next Monday, January 11, 2021, via a link under the Quick Links box from the home page.
- The January 14 meeting will also be held virtually.

**Motion to Suspend**

Dr. Miller moved, Mrs. Thomas 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.

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**Presentations**

1. Mrs. Lineman gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the **Tax Collector Compensation**. During and following the presentation there was lengthy discussion by the Board of various options. They asked Mrs. Lineman to come up with additional scenarios for the next meeting. Mrs. Lineman reminded the Board that approval of whatever the Board decides upon has to be no later than the February 11 Board meeting. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book]
2. Mr. Bennett and Mrs. Lineman gave a PowerPoint presentation of the **Athletic Complex Concession Stand** explaining the where the process stands at this time. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book]
3. Mrs. Webber introduced her intern, Shelby Malone, who gave a PowerPoint presentation on the District's **Alternative Education Transition Plan** explaining the process and shared that Mr. Keefer is the District's Alt Ed Coordinator.

**Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Bennett reported as follows:

1. Mr. Bennett thanked Mr. Keefer, Mrs. Webber and Ms. Malone for creating the current Alternative Education Program. He also thanked the Administrators, Teachers and Staff for working as a team to make such a program possible for our students.
2. School Board Recognition - In honor of the commitment to students, schools and communities of school boards' across the state, January is once again designated School Director Recognition Month. Mr. Bennett read the following  
"Pennsylvania public schools educate nearly 2 million students and 1,043 are in the Union City Area School District. The nine members of our School Board are a key part of the District's administrative team, making informed decisions that shape our schools and provide a pathway to success for every student. We would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank our nine members. UCASD recognizes the hard work and dedication of our Board members. On average, school directors, who are unpaid, devote 10 hours per month to the challenging and complex responsibilities of Board business, including adopting policy, voting on budgets, evaluating school security issues and reviewing hiring decisions. The impact of the coronavirus pandemic has added an additional challenge to our Board members as they determine how best to provide for the needs of students and our families in this new environment."

He thanked the Board sincerely on behalf of the whole team for all that they do, especially in these trying times.

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3. Secondary Scheduling Committee - The team is working on new survey which will include all stakeholders. They will be working with the original team plus any other school board members and parents from both the middle school and high school level. Mrs. Thomas and Dr. Miller were the Board members that originally volunteered. He stated that if any of the other Board members would like to be included on the committee to contact Mrs. Coleman. They will meet in upcoming weeks, and their goal is to have a recommendation to the Board in February as this is essential for scheduling purposes.
4. Mr. Bennett offered congratulations to Middle School/High School Principal Melissa Tomcho who recently was awarded her Doctorate of Education.
5. Finally, Mr. Bennett wished Ms. Sill a happy birthday (tomorrow).

**Administrative Reports** [See Supplementals enclosed in the Minutes Book]

Mrs. Coleman was thanked for all of the hard work she does on curriculum and seeking grants..

Mr. Thompson was asked if the roof leaks mentioned in his report were covered under warranty. Mr. Thompson replied affirmatively.

**Representative Reports**

Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit Board of Directors

Mr. Trauner reported that they had a smooth meeting. The struggle continues for the staff having to juggle all of the various districts' health and safety plans. Since Dr. Maynard retired and Mr. Whitman took over in October, all continues to function well at the IU.

Erie County Technical School Joint Operating Committee

Mr. Gilbert reported that there has been no change since what was reported at last week's special meeting. If any of the Board has questions, he asked that they contact him.

**Other Business**

Mr. Trauner presented the first reading of new PSBA policies 800-32 and 901-918. There were no questions.

Mr. Trauner led presented next Thursday's draft agenda for review. There were no questions.

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**Adjournment**

Mr. Hopson moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Lewis.

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 declared the meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Sill  
School Board Secretary