

Union City Area School District
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Middle School/High School Large Group Instruction Room
February 11, 2021

President George Trauner called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He welcomed 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.
- Some of my fellow Board members and administrators are attending via Zoom. A test was conducted prior to tonight's meeting for technology set-up only and no business was discussed.
- 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, February 15, 2021, via a link under the Quick Links box from the home page.

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

Roll Call by the Secretary

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

Others Present

Matthew Bennett, Amy Coleman, Tara Lineman, Adam Shrout, Daniel Keefer, Racquel Gray, Ann Sill and Michael Swanson were physically present. Dr. Melissa Tomcho, Stacey Mulson and Steven Thompson were present via Zoom.

Motion to Suspend

Mr. Gilbert moved, Mr. Gregor 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, Brian Gregor, Douglas Hopson, Lori Lewis, Barbara Miller, David Robinson, Kimberle Thomas, and George Trauner voted yes. Motion carried.

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Mr. Trauner asked those attending by Zoom to keep their microphones muted until they need to speak to help eliminate the background noise. He asked the Board members present in the room that when they wish to speak to be sure their microphone is on and to speak closely into it when commenting. He also asked that when Ms. Gray approaches the podium to speak for Public Comment as well as for the Public Comment by Zoom that all those in the room should turn their microphones off to assist those attending via Zoom to be able to hear.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Bennett read the following prepared report:

“Good evening. Tonight I have just a couple comments as we have a very heavy agenda, and I want to be respectful of everyone’s time.

The first comment deals with the motion for the secondary schedule to transition from the current six-period pilot that we are on to a seven-period day.

For all of those tuned in, I want you all to know that this recommendation from the administration team was not taken lightly. The process of reviewing our secondary schedule started back in the fall of 2019. During that process there were multiple surveys, meetings, and sharing of ideas with all stakeholders including two different committees.

During this time a pandemic was thrown in just to make things interesting. This pandemic cost our students three months of in-person instruction and we continue to work diligently as a team to close those educational gaps for all of our students.

As always, we value everyone’s input, but at the end of the day a recommendation needed to be made with the best interests of our students at the heart of that recommendation. I believe the team has accomplished that mission, and I want to thank everyone, everyone involved in the process. With that said, please do not take the ownership and sponsorship of that recommendation to mean that we do not value your input. Somehow we have to learn to work together and respect each other’s opinions even when they are different.

That brings me to the color of the shirt I am wearing today. You may have noticed that our administration team and some of our board members are wearing green as well. We chose to wear green today to remind ourselves of our mission... the students.

In today’s world it seems that everyone is at odds with each other. Different emblems and colors can represent different attitudes and beliefs that puts people at odds with their neighbors. This is not the case, nor the intention, for this collective group wearing green today.

Green symbolizes for us the heart of the Union City Area School District. It symbolizes the passion and love we have for our students, faculty, staff, and community. We will have topics and viewpoints we don’t always agree upon, and that’s inevitable. But I am hopeful that we can all remember the central focus of what we do...the students.”

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Public Comment

Prior to comments from the public, Mr. Trauner announced that for those who will be speaking, he will call their name, each have three minutes to speak and he will be timing each person. He will let each know when they have approximately 10 seconds left and again when their time is up. Then he will move onto the next person wishing to speak. When each person is called, he asked that they state their name and address. Mr. Trauner recognized the following students – **Lexus Skelton**, **AmieJo Marhoefer** and **Emily Rand** who all spoke via Zoom regarding concerns or opposition to a seven-period day but rather in favor of block scheduling. Middle School/High School Teacher **Jonathan Burdick** also spoke via zoom on behalf of himself and his students. After reviewing all options he believes that no one way of scheduling is better than another but the most benefit is when all persons are on the same page and all views are considered. He is well able to adapt to whatever schedule the Board approves. Mr. Burdick feels the tutorial period is helpful and that the fear of the students seems to be a focus on quantity, not quality, and a lack of rigor. Finally, High School Teacher and UCAEA President, **Racquel Gray**, spoke on behalf of the teachers, urging the Board to vote “no” on the seven-period day schedule, stating that the majority of the faculty does not support this change and that they believe it is not beneficial to the students. She stated a sample of a six-period day that accommodates ECTS students was provided in correspondence sent previously to the Board members. A block schedule is preferred which she stated has been successful for over 20 years.

Mr. Trauner stated that the Board normally does not respond to the comments but he had a question to ask. He thanked the Board for the time they’ve put into this topic and especially the committee members, Dr. Miller, Mrs. Thomas and Ms. Gray who concurred that she was on the committee. Mr. Trauner stated that the Board requested that the Administration look into the scheduling as the Board has been passionate about this subject for several years. He stated that the Committee of the Whole meeting is for the Board to hear all information about various subjects so they can ponder the information and be prepared to vote at the following week’s meeting. He asked Ms. Gray why this information was not presented to the Board last week. She replied that the committee’s recommendation had not yet been presented to the Board and she felt it was inappropriate for her to make a public comment about something the Board was not yet aware of. Mr. Trauner then asked her why she did not meet with Mr. Bennett when she was offered the opportunity last Friday to which she replied she was out of the building as her daughter had surgery. He further asked if the Union Vice President could not have met with Mr. Bennett in her place. Ms. Gray responded that the Vice President is an Elementary Teacher and was not comfortable doing so but that they would be happy to sit down with the Administration and review the concerns. She further stated that the teachers will accept whatever is decided. Finally, Mr. Trauner asked that when correspondence is sent to the Board that the Superintendent also be included. He thanked her for responding to his questions.

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Approval of Agenda

Mrs. Lewis moved, Mr. Gilbert seconded to approve the agenda as presented.

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

Approval of Treasurer's Report

Mr. Hopson moved, Dr. Miller seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report for January 2021. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book]

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

Approval of Check List

Mr. Gregor moved, Mrs. Thomas seconded to approve the Checks for Board Approval – February 11, 2021, Checks Between Board Meetings – January 2021, Athletic Checks – April 2020, Procurement Card Listing – January 2021, and Construction Project Checks for Board Approval – February 11, 2021. [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, Brian Gregor, Douglas Hopson, Lori Lewis, Barbara Miller, David Robinson and Kimberle Thomas voted yes. George Trauner voted yes for all items except for Vendor Check 4053 from which he abstained. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Lewis moved, Dr. Miller seconded to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting, the January 7, 2021 Special meeting, and the January 14, 2021 Regular Board meeting.

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

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ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

Academics

Mr. Trauner asked for a motion to approve Academic motions 1 and 2 if there were no objections. Mr. Robinson requested a separate vote for each motion.

UCASD 2021/2022
Calendar

Mr. Gilbert moved, Mrs. Lewis seconded to approve the updated Union City Area School District 2021/2022 calendar, as presented. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book]

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

Seven-Period School
Day for MS/HS
effective with the
2021/2022 school
year

Mr. Gregor moved, Mrs. Lewis seconded to approve a seven-period school day for the Union City Area School District Middle School and High School beginning with the 2021/2022 school year.

Following discussion, Mr. Robinson made a motion to table the item, seconded by Dr. Miller. Following further discussion, the motion to table was brought forward for a roll call vote.

*Motion to table -
defeated*

Roll Call Vote to Table the Motion: Blain Blakeslee, Stephen Gilbert, Brian Gregor, Douglas Hopson, Lori Lewis, Barbara Miller, Kimberle Thomas, and George Trauner voted no. David Robinson voted yes. *Motion to table defeated (1-8).*

Motion for Seven-
Period School Day
approved

Roll Call Vote to Approve the Motion: George Trauner, Kimberle Thomas, Barbara Miller, Lori Lewis, Douglas Hopson, Brian Gregor, Stephen Gilbert and Blain Blakeslee voted yes. David Robinson voted no. Motion carried (8-1)

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Co-Curricular

Mr. Gilbert moved, Mrs. Lewis seconded to approve the following Co-Curricular items:

UC Sports Complex License and Donation Agreement for Dugouts

1. RESOLVED that the Board of School Directors of the Union City Area School District hereby approves the License and Donation Agreement with the Union City Sports Complex Committee whereby the Union City Sports Complex Committee agrees to donate the time, labor, and materials and construction related to the athletic complex dugout area to the School District, pending approval by the Union City Area School District Foundation and the Contractor(s) as well as related Agreements, Certificate of Insurance and Indemnification Addendum. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book]

Pettinato resignation

2. To accept the resignation of Michael Pettinato, Assistant Varsity Football Coach, effective immediately. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book]

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

Finance

Mr. Trauner asked for a motion to approve Finance items 1-9 if there were no objections. There were none. Mr. Robinson moved, Mrs. Lewis seconded to approve Finance motions 1-9 as follows:

Seeking Proposals for IT services

1. Seeking proposals for Information Technology services starting in the 2021-2022 school year.

Seeking proposals for audit services

2. Seeking proposals for audit services starting in the 2021-2022 school year.

ECTS Summit Twp. Sewer Authority and Easement Agreement

3. The Erie County Technical School resolution with the Summit Township Sewer Authority and the Sanitary Sewer Right-of-Way Easement Agreement, as presented. [See Supplementals enclosed in the Minutes Book]

Change Order

4. The change order for the Control System Replacement/Metasys in the amount of \$45,550.00 out of the Construction Fund 39.

Seeking Bids – Phase A Elementary Roof

5. Seeking bids for Phase A of the Elementary School Roof Repair/Replacement. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book]

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**BlueScope
Construction
Concessions Stand
at Elementary
Complex**

6. BlueScope Construction to prepare drawings and specifications for the design build general construction performed by BlueScope Construction of a concession stand at the athletic complex and to thereafter advertise for sealed bids for the plumbing, and electrical work, as may be necessary or required based upon the specifications for the project.

**ECTS 2021/2022
Budget**

7. The 2021-2022 General Fund Budget for the Erie County Technical School, including Secondary Programs and Regional Career and Technical Center Adult Programs.[See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book]

**Charter School
Legislation Reform**

8. The Resolution calling for Charter School Legislation Reform, as presented.[See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book]

**ECTS Renovation
Project Cost
Allocation**

9. The Erie County Technical School Renovation Project Cost Allocation, as presented. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book]

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

**Personnel
Support Staff
Substitute List
Additions**

Mr. Trauner asked for a motion to approve Personnel items 1-7 if there were no objections. There were none. Dr. Miller moved, Mrs. Thomas seconded to approve the following Personnel items:

**Ganster – Support
Staff Substitutes**

1. Samantha Ganster (custodian) to the District Support Staff Substitute list for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year, pending receipt of remaining employment documents.

Keene – retirement

2. To accept the resignation of Sherry L. Keene, Elementary Teacher, effective June 30, 2021, for the purpose of retirement. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book]

Good – resignation

3. To accept the resignation of Julie Good, Cafeteria Employee, retroactive to the end of the workday, November 17, 2020. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book]

(continued, next page)

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**Act 93
Compensation Plans**

4. The compensation plans for the following individuals/positions:
Mrs. Amy Coleman/Director of Curriculum
Mr. Daniel Keefer/High School Building Principal
Mrs. Stacey Mulson/Director of Special Education and Student Services
Mr. Adam Shrout/Middle School Building Principal
Mr. Steve Thompson/Director of Buildings and Grounds
Dr. Melissa Tomcho/Elementary Building Principal
Mrs. Amy Webber/School Psychologist
[See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book]

**Smith – medical
leave**

5. An unpaid medical leave of absence for Julie Smith, Elementary Teacher, retroactive from February 3, 2021 through March 26, 2021. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book]

**Bartholomew,
Hasbrouck –
Custodians effective
7/1/21**

6. Wendy Bartholomew at an hourly rate of \$9.27 and Joshua Hasbrouck at an hourly rate of \$9.27 as full-time custodians effective July 1, 2021.

Amend SPO Powers

7. The petition to amend the Powers and Duties of School Police Officer Edward Schick pursuant to 24 P.S. §13-1302-C granting Officer Schick authority to issue summary citations in performance of his duties as the School Police Officer for the Union City Area School District. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book]

Mr. Gilbert publically thanked Mrs. Keene for helping his daughter get through a difficult time years ago when she was in Mrs. Keene’s first grade class.

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

**Policy
2nd Reading policies
103, 252 and 218.3**

Mr. Trauner presented the second reading of Second reading of the revisions to PSBA policies 103 “Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Students” and 252 “Dating Violence: and new PSBA policy 218.3 “Discipline of Student Convicted/Adjudicated of Sexual Assault.” [See Supplementals enclosed in the Minutes Book]

The Board had no questions or comments.

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Approval of policies
103, 252 and 218.3

Mr. Gregor moved, Mrs. Lewis seconded to approve the revisions to PSBA policies 103 “Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Students” and 252 “Dating Violence: and new PSBA policy 218.3 “Discipline of Student Convicted/Adjudicated of Sexual Assault.” The Board had no questions or comments. [See Supplementals enclosed in the Minutes Book]

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

Financial Reports

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

Other Business

Mr. Blakeslee asked the Board to keep Julie Smith in their thoughts and prayers as she continues to recuperate following surgery.

Executive Session

Mr. Trauner asked Mr. Bennett if he had anything for Executive Session. Mr. Bennett replied that he had nothing to present.

Adjournment

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

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

Mr. Trauner adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Sill
School Board Secretary