

Union City Area School District
SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING
Middle School/High School Large Group Instruction Room
February 4, 2021

President George Trauner called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He welcomed those attending online and reminded the Board members present to be sure their microphone is turned on when speaking and to speak directly into it. Mr. Trauner then led the salute to the flag and a moment of silence.

Roll Call by the Secretary

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

Others Present

Matthew Bennett, Amy Coleman, Tara Lineman, Adam Shrout, Melissa Tomcho, Daniel Keefer, Steve Thompson, Ann Sill, Dan Burek, Mike Swanson were physically present. Stacey Mulson, Amy Webber, Krista Byler and John Stehli, Paul Buettell were present via Zoom.

Mr. Trauner gave 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.
- Some of my fellow Board members and administrators are attending via Zoom from their homes. 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 meetings. Those wishing to comment regarding tonight's meetings 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 meetings are being recorded and will be available on the District website by next Monday, February 8, 2021, via a link under the Quick Links box from the home page.

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Presentations

1. **Concession Stand and Restroom Project** - Mr. Bennett passed around the Board table a model of the outdoor concession stand built by Dan Burek. Mr. Bennett began reviewing the PowerPoint presentation of the history of the concession stand, the Union City Sports Complex Committee information and the cost. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book] He then introduced Mr. Dan Burek, who has put countless hours of his own time into this project, and Mr. Paul Buettell from Blue Scope who was attending via Zoom. Mr. Burek reviewed the remaining PowerPoint pages and then responded to questions from the Board. Mrs. Lineman was asked if we have money remaining from the Middle School/High School Renovation to apply toward this project. She stated that once everything is paid there will be approximately \$500,000 left over and is separate from the current capital improvement fund balance. Mr. Bennett thanked the UCSC, Kyle Blakeslee, Mr. Hopson, Mrs. Thomas, Mr. Gilbert, Mr. Trauner and Mr. Burek who worked tirelessly for over a year on this venture. It was asked about the \$70,000 to \$80,000 that was raised by the UCSC. Mr. Bennett stated that the UCSC plans to use this money to replace the four dugouts which are in deplorable condition. Responding to a concern from the community about this causing taxes to be increased, Mr. Bennett assured everyone that they have done their homework and they can recommend this project and stay within the budget. He assured the Board this falls comfortably in our five-year plan and the funding is covered by the leftover money saved from the Middle School/High School renovation and the payments were already budgeted for. Mrs. Lineman added that we can use these remaining funds for the Concession Stand Project or use it to pay back the bond. Following discussion it was decided to put the motion to approve the concession stand/restroom project on next week's agenda for approval. Mr. Burek left the meeting and Mr. Buettell signed off Zoom.

2. **Elementary Roof Project** - Mr. Bennett began by giving a little history of the Elementary roof installation and inspections. He stated that the Board has discussed addressing the Elementary School renovations in phases to avoid a large one-time cost. He introduced roofing expert, Mr. John Stehli, who reviewed with the Board his findings via a PowerPoint presentation, showing several photos of the roof condition. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book] Mrs. Lineman distributed a spreadsheet to the Board which was reviewed. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book] Mr. Bennett noted that an annual price of \$3,000 is being set aside to have Mr. Stehli inspect the roof each year to look for potential issues before they become major problems which will extend the life of the roof. He recommends using the capital improvement money and put the roof repairs out to bid. A motion will be on next week's agenda to go out for bid.

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It was asked if walk-throughs are being done at the high school since the renovation was completed. Mr. Bennett replied that is happening continually. Hudson has been especially good at responding to calls from Mr. Thompson and taking care of issues that show up. Mr. Bennett added that since every inch of the building is being deep cleaned regularly, eyes are on every area. Mr. Stehli signed off Zoom following his presentation.

3. **2021/2022 Secondary Schedule** – Mr. Keefer gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding next year’s Secondary Schedule. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book] Mr. Keefer explained that the six-period schedule was piloted this year to address gaps in learning due to the pandemic shutdown. Only 120 students out of 350 responded to the survey. The majority of students who responded wanted to return to block scheduling (45.93%), while parents and teachers preferred remaining with the six-period day (55.65% of the parents who responded and 70.37% of the teachers) and 66.67% of the community responses were in favor of a seven-period day. Mr. Keefer responded to questions from the Board including why the students want to return to the block schedule. Mr. Keefer replied that there are only four classes a day with that option. It was also added that the block often allows time for homework and teacher assistance following instruction. Mr. Keefer stated that any option will meet with some opposition, but when all pros and cons were evaluated by the committee, the recommendation is for a seven-period day. The motion will be on next week’s agenda for approval. Following approval, they can start the scheduling process and preparing new electives for next year. The goal is that when the students leave for summer vacation they will have their 2021/2022 schedule in hand.

Superintendent’s Report

Mr. Bennett stated that there will be a motion on the February 11 agenda to approve the agreement with the Union City Sports Committee regarding their donation of time, labor, materials and construction for the dugouts for both softball and baseball. He again thanked everyone who has generously donated their time. It is important to note that there is no cost to the District but will be paid for with the money that the UCSC has obtained through fundraising.

He thanked everyone who contributed to the evening’s presentation which he felt was very informative and well done.

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Administrative Reports [See Supplementals enclosed in the Minutes Book]

Mrs. Lineman was asked if she can predict what the state budget will be. She replied that the Governor just presented his budget proposal so she saw some projections and it looks to be a tough budget year that will be extended out. The past projections look good and she will be reviewing them with the Board in March. Mr. Bennett added that they are planning for a worst case scenario and only cash-in-hand is counted on.

Dr. Tomcho stated that the Guidance Department has scheduled the SAT exam for Juniors and Seniors on March 24. She also stated that the partnership between the High School Life Skills class and Parker Hannifin has been a wonderful experience for the students, three of whom recently began their work experience. Mr. Hopson thanked the Administrative and Special Education teams for making this possible. He added that Mrs. Holmes offered to pay for the required steel-toed boots for the students and be reimbursed later so they could get started. It's hands-on work and they are doing a great job.

Mr. Thompson was asked if Academy Drive is private property and if the PSP has jurisdiction to ticket someone driving erratically or going through a stop sign. Mr. Thompson replied that it is a gray area and when Officer Barber was here (as School Resource Officer from the Borough Police) he was not permitted to ticket. Mr. Bennett added that he believes the PSP can ticket anywhere they see a violation, however that is not their purpose in them being on school property. They have obliged us in monitoring for safety and security. He added that they have been given permission to sit in our parking lot to catch up on their paperwork. It was also noted that there is no sidewalk from the Elementary School to Miles Street to which Mr. Bennett stated that will be addressed when the Elementary School is renovated.

Representative Reports

Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit Board of Directors

Mr. Trauner reported that the IU continues to move forward. COVID plays havoc with staff who must adapt to the various safety plans from many school districts. The budget review is coming up, and like school districts, they have difficulty getting substitutes when staff are absent.

Erie County Technical School Joint Operating Committee

Mr. Gilbert reported the following:

1. Last Thursday was their first live meeting in a while.
2. The 2021/2022 Budget proposal includes an increase of 3.5% for all districts. He reviewed the proposed budget with Mr. Bennett and Mrs. Lineman. All increases are justified and we have the funds to cover them. Sixty-eight percent of the ECTS funding comes from the participating school districts and the net cost per UCASD student looks to be approximately \$6,000. The total proposed budget is about \$7 million.
3. ECTS will remain on a hybrid schedule.

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4. Union City has 54 students currently enrolled plus five in the Transition Center. A few were lost last month. As of the end of the second quarter, the Exemplary Student report contained 13 UCASD students; eight with perfect attendance, three on honor roll and two distinguished (perfect attendance plus honor roll).
5. Recent UC graduate, Erynn McChesney, is working at Career Street.
6. The recruiting numbers are down due to the pandemic. Parents are concerned about student safety or the lack of hands-on instruction. A video was developed which was shared with the Board and was very well done. Open house was also cancelled. He suggested a recruiting session in the summer which was well received. Students will be accepted for enrollment up until the 2021/2022 school year begins.

Other Business

1. Mr. Trauner presented the first 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” to the Board.

2. Mr. Trauner asked the Board to access the February 11, 2021 draft agenda which was reviewed. There were no questions. He reminded the Board to contact him or Mr. Bennett if questions arose.

Adjournment

Mr. Trauner asked for a motion to adjourn this meeting and then the Board would go directly into the special meeting. Mrs. Lewis moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Gregor.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Mr. Trauner declared the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Sill
School Board Secretary