

Union City Area School District
SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING
Middle School/High School Large Group Instruction Room
March 4, 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 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, March 8, 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, Douglas Hopson, Lori Lewis, David Robinson, Kimberle Thomas, and George Trauner were physically present. Barbara Miller was present through Zoom. Blain Blakeslee was absent.

Others Present

Matthew Bennett, Amy Coleman, Tara Lineman, Melissa Tomcho, Daniel Keefer, Mike Swanson, Ann Sill, Nathan DeSimone, Stephanie McNulty, Jessica H. Reynolds, Eliza Reynolds, Cathryn Reynolds and Alex Reynolds were physical present. Adam Shrou, Stacey Mulson, Amy Webber, Steve Thompson, Krista Byler, Laurie Root, Mike Jaruszewicz (United Way) were present via Zoom.

Presentations

1. Mr. DeSimone and the Reynolds family entered the meeting room. Mr. DeSimone introduced Senior **Eliza Reynolds** and showed a video highlighting Miss Reynolds' high school achievements. He stated that Miss Reynolds recently scored her 1000th point in Girls Basketball. She has been the leading scorer with an average of 17 point per game and has achieved nine varsity letters in three sports – Volleyball and Softball in addition to Girls Basketball as well as being captain of all three teams. Academically, she has a 4.3 grade point average and will be attending Mercyhurst majoring in sports medicine as well as playing college softball. Mr. Bennett offered his congratulations. The Reynolds family then left the meeting.

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2. Mrs. McNulty entered the meeting room. Mr. Bennett introduced **Stephanie McNulty** who is the District's Mental Health Counselor as well as a 7th and 8th grade Science teacher. Mrs. McNulty thanked Mr. Bennett, Mrs. Coleman and the Board for this opportunity. She reviewed a PowerPoint of the Counseling Department's mid-year review and then responded to questions from the Board. Mr. Bennett thanked her for the expertise she brings to the District. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book] Mrs. McNulty then left the meeting.
3. Mr. Bennett then introduced Laurie Root, Senior Vice President of the United Way of Erie County who in turn introduced the United Way's Vice President of Community Impact, Mike Jaruszewicz, who were both present via Zoom. She expressed appreciation for allowing them to share with the Board the **United Way's Community Schools Initiative** and the possibility of bringing the model to the District's Elementary School. The purpose of the program is to break down barriers to learning that low income children face with the ultimate goal of increasing academic achievement by creating supports for children and their families to address the non-academic barriers that keep students from excelling in school. She stated she had shared with the Board previously some information as well as a video series via email, explaining the how community schools work and how they are funded. The Board had no questions. Both Ms. Root and Mr. Jaruszewicz then signed of Zoom.
4. Dr. Tomcho and Mr. Hopson showed a video of the **Life Skills students at Parker Hannifin** performing their internship. Dr. Tomcho explained this was a collaborative effort of the School District, Mrs. Holmes, Mrs. States, Mr. Wydro and several members of the management team from Parker Hannifin. Mr. Hopson explained the machines a couple of the students were running and how the parts are used in the assembling of fire hoses. Mr. Bennett stated that after the pandemic is over, he would like to invite the Board to tour the classroom to see what the life skills students do. He explained how this experience perfectly fits into the pathway for these students and thanked Dr. Tomcho, Mr. Hopson and Parker Hannifin for this opportunity.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Bennett reported the following:

1. **Vaccine Update** – The District was able to work in partnership with Corry Memorial Hospital to get all of the 1A-eligible faculty and staff that requested Covid vaccines their first injection this week. We are up to 82 faculty and staff that have at least received the first vaccine, and there are currently 75 remaining employees that are in the process of being registered for the vaccination which will most likely take place next week. Eighty nine slots will be available at the IU5 by the end of next week or the beginning of the following week. It was asked if the vaccine schedule would include all District employees to which Mr. Bennett replied that it would, as well as Monark Student Transportation employees and the staff at the District from the School and Community Based Behavioral Health.

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2. **Prom/Graduation** – The secondary administrative team is working on several options for prom and graduation plans. Two dates for prom have been reserved at Mound Grove Golf Course. If things are not back to normal, there will be restrictions and for some events, outdoor venues are being considered. The end-of-the-year events are Prom, Baccalaureate and Graduation as well as a graduation ceremony for the Class of 2020 which Mr. Bennett promised would happen when the pandemic lifts. This is being considered for possibly the day after the 2021 graduation. If restrictions are the same as they are now, the football stadium and tents may be utilized with social distancing for parents for baccalaureate and graduation. If there are still singing restrictions, the students may need to be spread out or the music pre-recorded for Baccalaureate. For prom at Mound Grove, if there are still restrictions, students may need to be split into two groups – Juniors the first half of the evening with a half hour cleaning break before the Seniors have their prom the latter half of the evening. Food would not be able to be served if this is the case. Another option is to have back-to-back evening events for Baccalaureate, Prom and Graduation.

3. **Closing the Gap** – The administrative team has been brainstorming a plan for using the money from the government designated to help kids catch up on missed education due to the pandemic. Being planned is a summer program which will be open to all students in grades K4-12. The program would include ESY (Extended School Year) for students with an IEP, credit recovery to help kids catch up on missed credits, and for all other students interested in attending. The goal is to have something that's both educational and fun. Planned are two weeks of four-days per week sessions (Monday through Thursday) in June, in July and in August, with a three-hour morning and afternoon session each day and an hour break in between for lunch and cleaning. Breakfast would be provided for the a.m. kids as well as lunch for the p.m. kids and those who will be staying for both the a.m. and p.m. sessions. Transportation will be provided. ESY will work off the IEP goals, and grades and attendance will only be counted for credit recovery. Students may choose any or all sessions desired. There will be 47 minutes of math, 47 minutes of language arts, and the remaining time for various fun activities. If the Board is in agreement to offering this, a survey will be sent to all District faculty to determine how many teachers would be interested in assisting. They will be paid the contracted rate of \$27 per hour. The goal is to have groups of ten students.

4. **Standardized Testing** – Standardized testing is a federal mandate but there is flexibility that the tests can be given as late as next fall. We have an advantage that of the 121 days of school so far, the Secondary students have been physically in school for 102 of those 121 days with the remaining 19 days as synchronous learning. The Elementary students have been in school for 106 days with the remaining 15 days being synchronous learning. Our plan is to administer the tests in May although no exact dates have been set yet. For the students not required to be tested, the current plan is to have them learn synchronously from home.

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5. **COVID-19 Testing Site** – We have been approved as a COVID-19 testing site for the community; one day in March and one day in April with the dates to be determined. These will be held in the Auxiliary Gym, will be walk-ins and the cleaning crew is all set.

6. **COVID-19 Vaccine Site** – By being an approved testing site, we may also be a potential vaccine site. Mr. Bennett and Mr. Thompson completed a 20-page document which would be a great service to our community. If selected, this would take place in the Main Gym with the pattern flow already designed to maximize the square footage.

7. **Brown Building** – The brown building next to the softball field (which was reported that years ago was the old concession stand), is now used only for minimal storage. Some time ago Mr. Bennett spoke with the Board about the Union Street building and needing a building here to store equipment and cinders that are currently stored in the Union Street building. He asked Mr. Thompson to secure a tentative quote to tear down the brown building, relocate it near the Administration Office, re-install a new metal roof and siding which was quoted at just under \$10,000, using the ballasts from the Elementary roof for the floor. This would require a small amount of bulldozer work and would require three quotes. Then the Union Street property could be sold as previously discussed with the proceeds going to this expense. He stated there is also a cement slab under the brown building which could be used as a batting cage or pitching mound. He asked for permission to continue researching this with a possible motion in the future. There were no questions or concerns.

Administrative Reports [See Supplementals enclosed in the Minutes Book]
There were no questions from the Board on any of the Administrative Reports.

UCAEA Report

Mr. Trauner stated that this will be a new report on the Committee of the Whole monthly agendas to give the Association the opportunity to speak with the Board each month without doing so through Public Comment. No representative was present tonight.

Representative Reports

Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit Board of Directors

Mr. Trauner reported that the IU is going through the 2021/2022 budget process which all participating School Districts must approve.

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Erie County Technical School Joint Operating Committee

Mr. Gilbert reported as follows:

1. The hot topic continues to be the anticipated renovation. Most of the JOC wants to proceed with getting the necessary permits, but Mr. Gilbert expressed that is hesitant to spend another \$50,000 to \$60,000 without a guarantee of the renovation happening which requires approval of all participating school districts. A vote was taken and passed 7-3 to proceed with securing the permits.
2. Mrs. Lineman will soon be getting the third invoice for the architect's final fee.
3. The ECTS Business Manager has resigned unexpectedly which was a blow to the school. It was his understanding that she had planned on retiring in a couple of years. No reason was mentioned that he is aware of. They also do not have a new IT Director yet; theirs left 2-3 weeks ago. He asked Mr. Bennett if it would be possible for ECTS to contract as we do. Mr. Bennett stated that it is completely possible and he will bring it up at the next PAC meeting.
4. All students who applied to attend ECTS in 2021/2022 should have received their acceptance letters. They are still actively recruiting and will continue right up to the start of the 2021/2022 school year.
5. There is concern about the ECTS courses and enrollment. One of their policies requires the administrative team to review all of the courses as to their viability. Two years ago the Electronics course was eliminated as there were only three students enrolled. At the recommendation of the superintendents, they are going to waive any curtailment of programs due to Covid. Some students didn't attend this year due to remote learning and the lack of hands-on participation. Some of the classes have fewer than ten students and the teachers of those classes will be asked to develop some recruiting plans. He believes they need to do a better job of recruiting. Prior to being approved as the JOC representative, he was not aware of the importance of ECTS but now his heart is there and he believes it's a very important part of our community.

Other Business

1. Mr. Trauner presented the first reading of the revisions to Policy #006.1 "Attendance at Meetings Via Electronic Communications," Policy #006 "Meetings," Policy 137.1 "Extracurricular Participation by Home Education Students," Policy 150 "Title I - Comparability of Services," Policy 810.1 "School Bus Drivers and School Commercial Motor Vehicle Drivers," and Policy 810.3 "School Vehicle Drivers." There were no questions.
2. Mr. Trauner stated if anyone had questions regarding the March 11 draft agenda to contact Mr. Bennett or Mr. Trauner.
3. No other business was brought before the Board.

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Adjournment

Mr. Trauner asked for a motion to adjourn, and then following adjournment, the Board would move directly into the Special Meeting.

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

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

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Sill
School Board Secretary