

**Union City Area School District**  
**REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**  
**Middle School/High School Large Group Instruction Room**  
**September 10, 2020**

Vice President Lori Lewis 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**

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

**Others Present**

Matthew Bennett, Amy Coleman, Tara Lineman, Ann Sill, Melissa Tomcho, Mike Swanson, Tim Petrilla, Maryann Mook, and Nathan De were physically present. Adam Shroul and Stacey Mulson attended via Zoom.

**Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Bennett reported as follows:

Return to School Updates:

- He began his report as he does each meeting with an update from the Health Department, the COVID dashboard that superintendents are to be following. The Sept. 7 report shows a further decrease of 18 cases and we are down to 2.5% in percent positive. When this began it was 6.2%. The mainline model which is the site that follows school districts by zip code and for the past two weeks UC has had no positive cases.
  
- Gym Classes –Mr. Bennett is reviewing the guidelines and checking with our attorney to see what we can do. There have been concerns by parents of the students having to wear masks while running, etc. Attorney Joseph agreed with Mr. Bennett that Physical Education classes fall under the same guidelines as athletics. Mrs. Tomcho and Mr. Shroul will be working with the Phys. Ed teachers to communicate with parents. A waiver will need to be signed, the same as with athletics. Kids will be able to unmask when actively engaged in the gymnasium. It was asked if since the last meeting when the superintendents met if the numbers were the same as what was reported at ECTS which was reporting high numbers. Mr. Bennett stated he can't speak for Dr. Walker as he has a much broader sense, but all zip codes are in blue or green which is very good. Previously, Northwestern and Girard spiked as did Iroquois and Harbor Creek whose spikes were due to an outbreak in a retirement home, not in the community. Mr. Gilbert added that Dr. Walker's goal is to have the kids physically return to school for the second quarter based on numbers.

Union City Area School District  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING – September 10, 2020

- Athletic Update –
  - Homecoming - Mr. Bennett invited Mrs. Tomcho to the podium to give an update on homecoming. She stated that the Girls and Boys Varsity Clubs nominated the court via a Zoom meeting. The Queen candidates are Caitlyn Bojaczko, Sydney Gilbert, Eliza Reynolds, Andrea Myer, Jensen Kesselring and Brooke Reagle. The King candidates are Cain Greeley, Shane Uber, Tallin Henry, Ryan Woinelowicz, Zachary Jewell and Logan Kesselring. With the assistance of Mr. DeSimone, Mrs. Murphy and Mr. Prinkey, homecoming will not be during a traditional Friday evening football game but rather celebrated Wednesday, September 30 beginning at 7:30 p.m. This will permit more family, students and friends to attend. They are contacting last year's King and Queen about attending. Mr. Bennett thanked the administrators for their work. Tickets will be distributed to the members of the court and marching band members who will also perform. She invited the School Board members to attend. There will not be a High School Assembly but it will be videoed from the LGI and photos will be taken. There will not be a dance.
  - Senior Nights - Mr. DeSimone thanked the Board for the opportunity to proceed with sports.
    - Football - Saturday, September 19 ten senior football players and three senior cheerleaders will be recognized. There will be an alphabetic line-up with masked and socially distanced parents who will proceed to the center of the field as their child's bio is read. Masks will be removed for family pictures.
    - Marching Band seniors will be recognized on October 3 at 6:30 p.m. just before the 7:00 p.m. game.
    - Volleyball seniors will be honored at the Sept. 22 game at 7:00 p.m. Coach Moore came up with a great plan in which families will rotate in to meet their senior student which would consist of 23-24 in the gym at one time. There will be no masks for the photos taken by Jeff Parkin.
    - Cross Country seniors will be honored about 5:00 p.m. after the meet on September 17 at the gazebo- masked and socially distanced.
    - Golf – There are no seniors on the Girls or Boys Golf teams.

Union City Area School District  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING – September 10, 2020

- House Bill 2787 was emailed to the Board. This bill allows local school to make decisions regarding sports and activities. If the bill passes the house by a vote of 155-47 it would be veto proof. Governor Wolf is expected to veto it. Votes could go over party lines to veto. If the law changes, we will make appropriate adjustments. Mr. Bennett will keep the Board posted. He was asked if there would be repercussions if the District violates the law. Mr. Bennett responded that it would not be a good thing to do.

*Mr. Robinson arrived at 6:07 p.m.*

- Senior Tickets – Mr. Bennett stated that no matter what is done, someone will be angry or upset. He has received concerns from parents with multiple children on the football team, band or cheerleading who would like a full complement of tickets for each player, and then they would like to decide how they distribute the tickets to family. Parents of underclassmen who have heard of this are concerned their child will be participating with only one of the parents being able to be in attendance when another family that, for example has twins, could have mom, dad, brother and sister. He stated that the team’s recommendation is going to be to follow the guidelines we shared with the board this past Thursday, but make it clear that a maximum of 2 tickets per family is allowable. If there are extra tickets at the end of the day they will go towards: 1) Split households of Seniors - so both sets of parents can attend ; 2) Underclassmen parents by lottery. Senior parents of opposing team was going to be an option, but none of the three teams (Iroquois, Seneca and Eisenhower are not agreeable to this. We would print off tickets and give them out to students. We do not have the manpower to track the brokering of tickets through parents/players. There are only two JV games and Eisenhower will reciprocate so we will give them 50 tickets. Mr. Bennett passed around a sample ticket. Tickets for senior night will be the same. The names will be printed on the tickets and they will be color-coded for each game. This has been a big topic of discussion in the community. When asked how they will keep track of each person when x-number of tickets will be distributed, Mr. Bennett replied that it is not possible to keep track of each name of those attending, but when tickets are collected at the gate, temperatures will be taken and we have one of the safest plans around. The Board was in agreement of the plan to distribute tickets and Mr. Bennett was commended. There were several questions asked about the live streaming of the various games. He replied that Mr. DeSimone

Union City Area School District  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING – September 10, 2020

and Mr. Swanson are working out the specific details. The McCrays have new equipment and will be in a different room. The website links will be made available and Mr. DeSimone is working with the Athletic Directors from the other school districts. JV games have no Marching Band or Cheerleaders so more tickets will be available with it being unlikely that the 250 limit will be reached. Mr. Bennett was asked about the customary feeding of the football team by the parent clubs. Mr. Bennett replied that unfortunately, that's not logistically possible although a bagged meal might be an option.

**Executive Session**

At 6:31 p.m. Mrs. Lewis announced that the Board would recess into Executive Session for Personnel and Legal Discussion. The Board meeting reconvened at 6:59 p.m.

*Mr. DeSimone left the meeting at 6:31 p.m.*

**Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Robinson moved, Mrs. Thomas seconded to approve the agenda with the following addition: Motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Union City Area School District and the Union City Area Education Association.

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

**Approval of Minutes**

Dr. Miller moved, Mr. Gilbert seconded to approve the minutes of the August 6, 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting and the August 20, 2020 Regular Board meeting.

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

**Approval of Treasurer's Report**

Mr. Gilbert moved, Dr. Miller seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report for August 2020. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book]

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

Union City Area School District  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING – September 10, 2020

**Approval of Check List**

Dr. Miller moved, Mr. Gilbert seconded to approve the Checks for Board Approval – September 10, 2020, Checks Between Board Meetings – August 2020, Athletic Checks – August 2020, Procurement Card Listing – August 2020, Construction Project Checks for Board Approval – September 10, 2020, and A/P Checks – July 2020 and August 2020. [See Supplementals enclosed in the Minutes Book]

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

***ITEMS FOR APPROVAL***

**Academics**

Mrs. Lewis asked for motion for Academic items 1-4 if there were no objections. There were none. Mrs. Thomas moved, Mr. Gregor seconded to approve the following items:

McMahan Mentor  
Teacher for S.  
McNulty

1. Edward McMahan as Mentor Teacher for Stephanie McNulty for the 2020-2021 school year receiving a stipend of \$245.00.

UCASD Health and  
Safety Plan updates

2. The amended Union City Area School District Health and Safety Plan, as presented. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book]

Tenure –  
Bocianowski,  
Prinkey, Ross and  
Smock

3. Tenure status to the following temporary professional employees: Michael J. Bocianowski, Matthew S. Prinkey, Amorette D. Ross, Eileen S. Smock and as per the Pennsylvania School Code, section 24 PS 11-1121.

MOU – UCASD and  
UCAEA

4. The Memorandum of Understanding between the Union City Area School District and the Union City Area Education Association, as presented. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book]

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

Union City Area School District  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING – September 10, 2020

**Buildings and Grounds**

Access Agreement  
with Parker-  
Hannifin

Dr. Miller moved, Mr. Gilbert seconded to approve the Access Agreement between the Union City Area School District and Parker-Hannifin Corporation, as presented. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book]

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

**Co-Curricular**

Mrs. Lewis asked for motion for Co-Curricular items 1-4 if there were no objections. There were none.. Mr. Robinson moved, Mr. Gregor seconded to approve the following items:

McGuire  
resignation

1. To accept the resignation of George McGuire as Assistant Wrestling Coach, effective immediately. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book]

Simon resignation

2. To accept the resignation of Timothy Simon as Head Wrestling Coach, effective retroactive to September 3, 2020. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book]

Bailey and Zahner -  
Class Advisors

3. Corey Bailey as 10th Grade Class Advisor (stipend amount \$206) and Janel Zahner as 11th Grade Class Advisor (stipend amount \$1,029), both for the 2020/2021 school year.

Waiver Entry  
Ticket Fee for Home  
Athletic  
Competitions

4. To waive the entry ticket fee for all fall home athletic competitions to spectators that are eligible to attend under the CDC and PA Department of Health guidelines.

It was asked why there was such an amount difference between the 10<sup>th</sup> Grade class advisor and 11<sup>th</sup> Grade class advisor. Mrs. Tomcho explained that the 11<sup>th</sup> grade hosts the prom and there is more time and energy involved as well as fundraising. It was asked if there was any truth that the seniors would be sponsoring prom this year. Mrs. Tomcho replied that it has not been discussed.

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

Union City Area School District  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING – September 10, 2020

**Finance**

Mrs. Lewis asked for motion for Finance items 1-3 if there were no objections. There were none. Dr. Miller moved, Mr. Robinson seconded to approved the following items:

**Tomcho –  
Custodian of MS/HS  
Activities Fund**

1. Melissa Tomcho, Middle School/High School Principal, as custodian of the Middle School/High School Activities Fund for the 2020-2021 school year.

**Shrout – Custodian  
of Elementary  
Activities Fund**

2. Adam Shrout, Elementary Principal, as custodian of the Elementary Activities Fund for the 2020-2021 school year.

**COVID Snacks**

3. COVID Snacks for the Middle School students and 5th grade students based on the time of their scheduled lunch period and until lunch is on a regular schedule.

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

**Personnel**

Mrs. Lewis asked for motion for Personnel items 1-3 plus 6. Mrs. Thomas moved, Mr. Gregor seconded to approve the following items:

**Substitute Support  
Staff Additions**

1. The following additions to the District Support Staff Substitute list for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year: Trudi Kaster (Classroom Aide, Cafeteria, Clerical Aide, pending receipt of mandated training), Anh Tyndall (Cafeteria), Curtis Vosburgh (Maintenance), Robb Reynolds (Maintenance, pending receipt of remaining employment documents), Joshua Hasbrouck (Custodian, pending receipt of remaining employment documents), and Robert Willert, Cheryl Strobel and Stacy Fink (Custodians).

**McChesney  
Transfer**

2. Transferring Reghan McChesney from full-time 2020/2021 School Building Aide to part-time Elementary Instructional Aide, 4½ hours per day at an hourly rate of \$9.00 per hour, retroactive to August 31, 2020. pending receipt of remaining employment documents.

(continued, next page)

Union City Area School District  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING – September 10, 2020

**Keefer – MS/HS  
School Building  
Aide**

3. Amy Keefer full-time School Building Aide in the Middle School/High School, 7 hours per day at an hourly rate of \$9.00, effective immediately.

**Whitling –  
2020/2021  
Custodian**

6. Crystal Whitling as Custodian for the remainder of the 2020/2021 school year only at an hourly rate of \$9.00, pending receipt of remaining employment documents.

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

**Bennett Resignation**

Mr. Hopson moved, Mr. Robinson seconded to accept the resignation of Matthew W. Bennett, Superintendent, effective September 10, 2020. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book]

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

**Bennett –  
Appointment as  
Superintendent  
9/11/20 – 6/30/25**

Mr. Gilbert moved, Mr. Robinson seconded to appoint Matthew W. Bennett as Superintendent of the Union City Area School District, effective September 11, 2020 for a term ending June 30, 2025, pursuant to the terms of the attached employment contract.

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

**Policy**

**Second Reading of  
PSBA Policy  
Revisions and New  
Policies**

Mrs. Lewis presented the second reading of the revisions to PSBA policies 203 “Immunizations and Communicable Diseases,” 209 “Health Examinations/Screenings” and 332 “Working Periods,” 314 “Physical Examination,” 318 “Attendance and Tardiness” (previously titled “Penalties for Tardiness), 334 “Sick Leave,” and 340 Responsibility for Student Welfare,” and new PSBA Policies 904 “Public Attendance at School Events” and 907 “School Visitors.” [See Supplementals enclosed in the Minutes Book] The Board had no questions or comments.



Union City Area School District  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING – September 10, 2020

**PSBA Policy  
Revisions and New  
Policies**

Mr. Gregor moved, Mrs. Thomas seconded to approve the revisions to PSBA policies 203 “Immunizations and Communicable Diseases,” 209 “Health Examinations/Screenings” and 332 “Working Periods,” 314 “Physical Examination,” 318 “Attendance and Tardiness” (previously titled “Penalties for Tardiness), 334 “Sick Leave,” and 340 Responsibility for Student Welfare,” and new PSBA Policies 904 “Public Attendance at School Events” and 907 “School Visitors.” [See Supplementals enclosed in the Minutes Book]

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

**PSBA  
PSBA Slate of  
Candidates for 2021**

Mr. Gregor moved, Mrs. Thomas seconded to approve the PSBA Slate of Candidates for 2021, as presented. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book]

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

**Financial Reports**

The financial reports were presented. Mrs. Lewis informed to Board to contact Mrs. Lineman if they had any questions. [See Supplementals enclosed in the Minutes Book]

**Other Business**

Mr. Bennett thanked the Board for approving him to serve another five years as Superintendent. Several Board members thanked him for a job well done.

Union City Area School District  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING – September 10, 2020

**Adjournment**

Dr. Miller moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Gilbert.

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

Mrs. Lewis adjourned the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Sill  
School Board Secretary