

Union City Area School District
SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING
Middle School/High School Large Group Instruction Room
September 3, 2020

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. Mr. Trauner reminded the Board to speak directly and to speak loudly into the microphones.

Roll Call by the Secretary

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

Others Present

Matthew Bennett, Amy Coleman, Tara Lineman, Ann Sill, Mike Swanson, Maryann Mook, Jeanie Kesselring and Kim Uber were physically present. Adam Shrout, Melissa Tomcho, Daniel Keefer, Stacey Mulson, Amy Webber, Steve Thompson, Krista Byler, Nathan DeSimone, Stephanie McNulty, Mallory Brannon, Shelby Malone and Tayler Parkin were present via Zoom..

Presentation

The **new Professional Staff for 2020/2021** were introduced as follows: Mrs. Tomcho introduced Stephanie McNulty who is a District-wide Guidance Counselor as well as who will be teaching some Middle School Science electives and Mallory Brannon will be teaching Middle School/High School Math. Mrs. Webber introduced her year-long intern, Shelby Malone, and Mrs. Mulson introduced Tayler Parkin who is the new Speech Language Pathologist. Mr. Bennett welcomed all four ladies into the UCASD family, thanked them for Zooming in to be introduced to the Board and look forward to working with them in the coming years. Mr. Trauner spoke on behalf of the Board and welcomed them as well. He informed them that they were welcome to stay on Zoom for the meeting or were free to exit.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Bennett stated he had some exciting things to talk about in his report.

1. He received a request for renewal of an **agreement with Parker Hannifin for ground water samples** last evening. The original agreement predates his arrival at the District. Attorney Joseph reviewed the original and revised agreements. The initial request was emailed to the Board and he distributed copies of the proposed agreement. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book] He asked the Board if they would like the representative, Mr. Ray, to make a presentation to the Board next week so any questions can be answered. if they would like to give him the questions and he will forward them to Mr. Ray, or if they would like the motion placed on next week's agenda for approval. Mr. Trauner surveyed the Board and all were in agreement to put the motion on the agenda.

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2. A motion to update the District’s Health and Safety Plan is on tonight’s special meeting agenda and contains only a minor change – 72 hours is being changed to 24 hours on page 26 which was approved by the Department of Health and matches what’s on the flow sheet. He continues to monitor District health and safety daily and it’s probably that the Plan will be updated each month.

3. Return to School Updates:
 - A. **Snack for some middle school and 5th grade students** – Due to the 6-foot spacing in the cafeteria, there are now eight lunch periods and first lunch begins at 9:45 a.m. with the second at 10:25 a.m. Mr. Bennett requested the Board authorize afternoon snacks for these students beginning the first day. A similar situation has happened with the 5th graders who don’t eat lunch until 12:30 p.m. so a morning snack is needed. Funds are available which come to \$2,700 a quarter for the middle school and \$1,500 a quarter for 5th grade. It was asked if there was any money left from the Cares Act distribution. Mr. Bennett responded that those funds have all been used.

 - B. **COVID Dashboard** - This targets less than 10 and less than 5% positive test results in two-week intervals. Although dropping, the weeks of August 10 and August 17 Erie County were still in the moderate range overall. Results continued to drop the weeks of August 24 and August 31. The District has no positive cases and there have been no new cases of the 21 tested in our area in the last seven day according to yesterday’s update.

 - C. **PIAA Update** - Yesterday, PIAA completely reversed their stance now allow spectators, however each school district has to provide safety measures. Masks and social distancing are mandatory. Mr. Bennett noted that these are not his personal beliefs, but the District must follow the regulations.
 - Only 25 individuals are allowed per competition indoors and that includes the athletes, officials, and coaches. This would not allow for spectators and some of the team may have to be in the hallway and switched out. However, now that spectators are permitted, it could allow for a senior night. Parents could be part of the senior night ceremony but would not be permitted to attend the game.
 - Outdoor sports allows for 250, again including all players, officials, coaches, security, etc. Mr. Bennett distributed a chart showing a breakdown for football which he reviewed, noting that there will be hurt feelings no matter how this is done so it’s important a lot of thought goes into a plan with clear communication. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book] There are currently three home and three away football games. Mr. Bennett’s current thought is to allow senior parents of football players, cheerleaders and marching band to receive two “tickets” (reservations) per game with one reservation

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going to each underclassman football player, cheerleader and marching band student. Mr. DeSimone will work with other district's athletic directors and he and Mrs. Tomcho will begin communicating with parents. We would like to work with the other school districts to see if they will allow our senior parents to receive reservations for away games and reciprocate when they come to our field. This is a starting point. However, before we can proceed, he asked the Board if they were in support of allowing spectators and in the football plan example just to assure we're all on the same page. He then responded to questions. He was asked that if there were leftover spectator slots that if the visiting team would not allow our parents admission at their home games if we would then not reciprocate with this visiting team. Mr. Bennett replied that was correct and with any remaining open "tickets" there might be a lottery for underclassmen parents. It was asked if parents cannot make it, if their tickets can be given to a relative. Mr. Bennett replied that these are reservations, not actual tickets. We have to know exactly who is attending, temperatures will be taken upon arrival, and specific seats will be physically reserved. There was discussion about the gym size and allowing more than 25 based on 36 sq. feet per person, but Mr. Bennett stated that the limit is 25 for everything – classes, gym classes, sports, etc. Again, this is not his belief or ideas but the guidelines we are required to follow. It was suggested playing the same team for all fall sports each week so if there's a positive only the one opposing school district would be affected, but Mr. Bennett explained that each fall team plays different teams. Mr. Bennett reinforced that there will be reservations, not actual tickets so it can be tracked exactly who is at each game in the event of a positive test result. There will be no of groups permitted to congregate and no gathering at the fences or we are in violation of our health and safety plan. Security will have to enforce this. Mr. Bennett was commended for his work on this plan and supported in temperature taking and enforcing mask wearing. Mr. Bennett stated that this plan will be well advertised so District families and community members understand the rules. All were in support of allowing spectators and the plan outlined. Mr. Trauner thanked the Board. Mr. DeSimone will work on a process for cross country following a similar model, and Mr. DeSimone and Mrs. Tomcho will begin working with the coaches on Senior Night's as soon as possible as well as a virtual homecoming.

- Viewing Games/Choices – The games can be broadcast live stream linked to the District website with commentators. Three options are available- (1) Local streaming/radio by Rod and Jason McCray (experienced, have equipment, free of charge, provide commentary and will travel to away outdoor games/meets when permitted), (2) Training someone inhouse to video the games and live feeds (both

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options would be linked to the District website), (3) Contracting with Pixellot. Mr. Swanson was asked to explain the fees which are \$2,500 for a one-time start up fee with a camera in the gym and one on the football field. Parents' fee is \$10.99/mo. with access to all sports broadcasted by Pixellot or \$69.99/year. They will work with the McCrays who may do commentaries or audio commentary, but Pixellot must broadcast the video, but there is a wait time of 5-7 weeks for installation. Mr. Bennett stated some of the bigger schools are going with Pixellot; some of the smaller schools with a local broadcaster. If we play school districts contracted with Pixellot, we cannot do our own broadcasting or commentating. To do our own streaming, we'd need about \$1,000 worth of equipment plus the time to train someone. Mr. Bennett recommends utilizing McCray and asked Mr. DeSimone to share what he learned after talking with the McCrays. Mr. DeSimone stated that Rod and Jason McCray would be interested in videoing, commentating and broadcasting our events this fall. They recently purchased some new equipment that would allow them to film the game and while the video is showing it would include the score and clock on the screen. It was suggested if using the McCrays to give them a donation. Mr. Robinson stated that the Union City Family Support Center will continue to run the feed through their radio station and thought it might be a good opportunity for interested students to gain some experience. Mr. Bennett suggested that if the numbers are under 250, he would suggest socially distanced shadowing for a couple students to gain experience. Mr. Bennett asked what direction the Board would like to go. All were in favor of the McCrays.

- D. Mr. Bennett thanked Mr. DeSimone and Mrs. Tomcho for their work on the Sports Health and Safety Plan which is on the special meeting agenda for approval immediately following adjournment of this meeting. There were no questions.
- E. Mr. Bennett stated that the pool will remain closed this month and that it doesn't make sense to open it at this time. Any changes will be relayed to the Board as soon as possible.

Executive Session

Mr. Trauner announced a recess for Executive Session at 6:46 p.m. for the purpose of legal and personnel discussion. The meeting reconvened at 7:11 p.m.

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Administrative Reports [See Supplementals enclosed in the Minutes Book]

Mrs. Coleman announced that she will be applying for the Safe Schools Grant which will be used for the School Police Officer. She also informed the Board that contrary to the notice in August that the District was ineligible to receive the Rural and Low-Income School grant for 20/21, a follow-up notice was just received that the US Department of Education requires PDE to include all of the 2019/2020 RLIS grant recipients to be awarded the grant. The \$21,000 will be used for the Elementary School.

Mrs. Tomcho was asked about the 17 new students and Mrs. Tomcho replied some are new; some left and came back. The request for records for 11 students is for 11 students who are leaving. It was also asked if since school started if there has been an increase of either cyber or distance learning with students leaving brick and mortar. Mr. Bennett stated we've seen the opposite – students are returning physically to school. He commended the Administrative Team for contacting every student's family. Mr. Skindell, our Truancy Officer from Bethesda, and Officer Schick have been sent to each home to check on all the non-responders.

Mrs. Coleman was given kudos for the number of students enrolled in our cyber academy.

Representative Reports

Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit Board of Directors

Mr. Trauner reported that the IU is doing its best to move forward. Because they deal with so many school districts, they have many safety plans. Dr. Maynard is transitioning to his retirement on October 9 and Brad Whitman will take over as the Executive Director.

Erie County Technical School Joint Operating Committee

Mr. Gilbert reported that he has his shortest meeting in three years and was home by 8:00 p.m. He reported as follows:

1. PennDOT will be making an offer to ECTS for property to building the round-about. He hopes to find out in a month or so the amount which must be accepted by the various school boards.
2. The vestibule security has been completed and looks nice.
3. PDE has issued a grant to technical schools for \$116,000.
4. The JOC and Foundation audits are complete and there were no findings. Mr. Gilbert presented Mr. Bennett and Mrs. Lineman each with an audit book.
5. In June 776 students has signed up to attend ECTS this school year. Thirty of those decided not to attend following the pandemic – parents not wanting virtual instruction or sharing of tools between students. They are currently at 82% capacity and Union City students total 67.
6. Renovation plans are moving along. They anticipate final drawings from the architect within the next couple of meetings so the JOC can approve, submit to the individual School Boards to approve, and go out for bid.

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7. The JOC met with Dr. Walker with his review and set three new goals for 2020/2021.

Mr. Gilbert was asked if students want to return to ECTS if that is an option. He stated it is, but at the quarter-year mark. Mr. Bennett added that this is an item the superintendents will be discussing tomorrow.

Other Business

1. The first reading of the revisions to PSBA policies 203 “Immunizations and Communicable Diseases,” 209 “Health Examinations/Screenings, 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 policies 904 “Public Attendance at School Events” and 907 “School Visitors” was presented. [See Supplementals enclosed in the Minutes Book]
2. Mr. Trauner asked for discussion of PSBA Slate of Candidates for 2021. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book] He noted there is one position in which there are two candidates running – Vice President. One candidate, Sabrina Backer, is from Venango County and it is his preference to vote for the local candidate. He asked the Board if it was their desire to approve the entire slate of candidates with Ms. Backer as Vice President. The Board was in agreement. The item will be included on the September 10 agenda for approval.
3. Mr. Trauner stated that he cannot attend next week’s meeting but he will get in touch with Mrs. Lewis to run the meeting.
4. The September 10, 2020 draft agenda was reviewed. There were no questions. Mr. Trauner reminded the Board to contact him or Mr. Bennett if any questions came up before next week’s meeting. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book]

Special meeting

Mr. Trauner announced that following adjournment, a Special Meeting would be called to order.

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Adjournment

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

Mr. Trauner declared the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Sill
School Board Secretary