

Union City Area School District
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Elementary Large Group Instruction Room
February 8, 2018

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.

Roll Call by the Secretary

Blain Blakeslee, David Fox, Stephen Gilbert, Brian Gregor, Douglas Hopson, Lori Lewis, Barbara Miller, David Robinson and George Trauner were present.

Others Present

Dr. Sandra Myers, Joan Quickle, Tara Lineman, Ann Sill, Dan Ferretti, Jerrick Hunter, Sharon Reagle, Racquel Gray (and children), Stacey Mulson, Denise Kochanczyk, Wendy L. Mangol, Marlene Kuzma, Dona Fox, Melissa L. Tomcho, Brian J. Niggel, Frank Snyder, Dean Maynard, Adam Shrout, Kim Dawson, Jeannette Boyd, Riley Jo Boyd, Kelly Knauff, Lynora Knauff, Denise Benedict and Cindy Hunter were present.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Blakeslee moved, Mr. Fox seconded to approve the agenda as presented.

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

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Gregor moved, Mr. Fox seconded to approve the minutes of the January 4, 2018 Committee of the Whole meeting, the January 11, 2018 Regular Board meeting..

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

Approval of Treasurer's Report

Dr. Miller moved, Mr. Hopson seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report for January 2018. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book]

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

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Approval of Check List

Mr. Gregor moved, Mr. Blakeslee seconded to approve the Checks for Board Approval– January 11, 2018, Checks between Board Meetings– January 2018, and Athletic Checks– January 2018. [See Supplementals enclosed in the Minutes Book]

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

Public Comment

Mr. Trauner recognized **Denise Kochanczyk** spoke as the President of the (Union City Area Education) Association. Ms. Kochanczyk stated that at the January 11 meeting, Dr. Myers shook the hand of each Board member and presented them with a certificate of appreciation. Then Mr. Robinson thanked the teachers for attending the Board meetings. Ms. Kochanczyk stated that the goal of the Association is to improve communication and requested employee contribution to problem solving.

Mr. Trauner then recognized **Sharon Reagle** who followed up on the Latin Grading presentation given at a previous meeting. She stated that several meetings and many phone calls have taken place and the feedback has been positive. Originally planned for the class of 2020, this year’s Junior Class would like it effective with their class. She believes it is a healthy trend that will produce consistency as students will not be focused on competing with another person for a class rank. With the career pathways courses, all students, including those in STEM, Agriculture and ECTS, will have the opportunity to achieve their goals, and extra activities can be taken without fear of losing their class rank standing. She encouraged the Board to approve the Latin Grading System.

Finally, Mr. Trauner recognized **Brian Niggel** who stated that his daughter has always strived for perfect attendance, but because of recent medical issues and having to occasionally be excused from school shortly before dismissal time for related appointments, our current procedure requires that she is marked absent for that time, therefore ruining her ability to achieve perfect attendance. He asked that the Administration consider re-evaluating the current procedure for perfect attendance awards. Mr. Niggel then left the meeting.

Presentations

Mrs. Quickle introduced Mr. Dan Ferretti who teaches computer standards to Elementary students and will be presenting information on “**Coding**.” Mr. Ferretti thanked Mr. Shroud for the invitation to make this presentation to the Board. He explained that “Coding” is telling the computer what you want it to do. He received training in September and has been piloting various grade levels. He introduced fifth-grade student Jerrick Hunter who demonstrated coding for the Board and audience. Mr. Ferretti invited the Board to visit the lab if they are interested.

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Mrs. Mulson and Mr. Robinson presented the “**P-3 Program Activities in the Union City Area School District.**” They stated that Governor Wolf reinstated the Governor’s Institute which they, along with others from the District, Union City Family Support Center and Early Connections, attended in order to learn more about prenatal to 3rd grade brain development, risk factors and what can be done to help area families. Mr. Robinson invited all to attend a related symposium in the Middle School/High School Cafeteria on March 15. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book]

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL
COMMITTEE A

Academics

**Comprehensive Plan
Committee
Members**

Mrs. Lewis moved, Mr. Hopson seconded to appoint the Comprehensive Plan Committee Members as follows: Abbe Biebel, Krista Byler, Steve Gilbert, Bill Mangel, Brian Niggel, Pauline Pituch, Chris Prenatt, Dave Robinson, Lenora Rumm and Bonni Williams.

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

***Motion to table
approval of the Latin
Grading System***

Mr. Trauner asked for a motion to table approval of the Latin Grading System. He stated that a presentation will be given at the March Committee of the Whole meeting to answer any remaining questions. Mr. Gregor added that he spoke with a parent of a current junior who is in complete support of the change.

Mrs. Lewis moved, Mr. Robinson seconded to table approval of the Latin Grading System effective with the Class of 2019.

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

Personnel

**Substitute List
Additions**

Mrs. Lewis moved, Mr. Robinson seconded to approve the following:

1. Additions to the 2017-2018 District substitute list as per assignment: Cassie Wienczkowski (Classroom Aide and Clerical Aide, as available) and Malea Lyon (Classroom Aide, pending receipt of remaining employment documents).
2. IU Emergency Substitute Teacher Consortium substitutes for remainder of the 2017-2018 school year: Richard Arthur, Andrew Emans, and Alexander Reed.

**IU Emergency
Substitute Teacher
Consortium**

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

Rhodes – Special
Education Aide

Mrs. Lewis moved, Mr. Gilbert seconded to approve Megan Rhodes as full-time Special Education Aide, effective pending receipt of remaining employment documents.

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

Academic Policy

First reading –
revisions to Policy
#1200

Mrs. Lewis presented the first reading of the revisions to Policy #1200, formerly titled “Parent/Family Involvement” retitled “Parent/Family Engagement.” The Board had no questions or comments. [See Supplementals enclosed in the Minutes Book]

COMMITTEE B

Co-Curricular

Schmidt

Mr. Blakeslee moved, Mr. Gilbert seconded to approve Camryn Schmidt as Junior High Volleyball Coach, splitting the stipend with Joshua Mumau.

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

Freel

Mr. Blakeslee moved, Dr. Miller seconded to approve Noah Freel as Varsity Assistant Track Coach for the 2018 Track season.

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

Uber

Mr. Blakeslee moved, Mrs. Lewis seconded to approve Patrick Uber as volunteer baseball coach, then transferring to a non-contract paid assistant coach if the number of baseball student athletes warrants the extra coach. Discussion followed regarding why he would be paid if he is willing to serve as a volunteer. It was explained that an extra assistant paid position is always added if the number of student athletes exceed a set number.

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

Finance

Seek Bids – Food
Supply Purchase

Mr. Blakeslee moved, Mr. Fox seconded to approve the Food Service Department seeking bids for their food supply purchase for the 2018-2019 school year.

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

Resolution opposing
ESA Voucher
Programs

Mr. Blakeslee moved, Mr. Robinson seconded to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania school districts provide countless academic and extracurricular opportunities for learning and growth of all students, preparing them for higher education and careers; and districts have continued to make steady gains in academic achievement, with Pennsylvania students consistently ranked in or near the top 10 nationally on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) exams for reading and math; and Pennsylvania has been named a national leader in providing Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education programs; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania also maintains a greater high school graduation rate and a larger percentage of students moving on to higher education than the national average; and

WHEREAS, more than 80% of Pennsylvania students enrolled in career and technical centers or programs are achieving at the competent or advanced level on industry-based skills assessments, enabling them to earn credentials leading to meaningful employment or college credit equivalencies at cooperating institutions; and

WHEREAS, public schools ensure that each student with a disability receives a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in compliance with federal and state law and regulations, with students and their families having the benefits of a system of procedural safeguards; and

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WHEREAS, Education Savings Account (ESA) voucher programs such as those under Senate Bill 2 undermine Pennsylvania's responsibility to ensure every student in every community has equal access to public education; and schools targeted under Senate Bill 2 are already in under-resourced districts; and state money for ESAs would be deducted, on a per-student basis, from a school district's basic education subsidy; and not only would school districts' state aid be sent to unaccountable private schools, but such money could also be diverted to higher education, tutoring services and other "qualified education expenses," not even ensuring students receive full-time educational instruction; and

WHEREAS, the voucher program in Senate Bill 2 benefits families regardless of income or need, including students already enrolled in private schools or never having attended a targeted public school; and voucher systems in other states have been shown to be vulnerable to financial fraud and abuse; and

WHEREAS, unlike private schools, public school districts accept, educate and protect the rights of all children who come to their doors, as opposed to those institutions that can reject applicants based on any number of factors and are not required to uphold the rights of students with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, public schools are held to strict accountability standards that measure student achievement and academic progress, unlike private schools which are not required to use the same standard assessments and reporting requirements as public schools; and provisions under Senate Bill 2 would not require participating private schools to use the same standardized assessments, making comparison and evaluation of academic progress unachievable; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Union City Area School District opposes Senate Bill 2 and any other legislation or any effort by the General Assembly to implement tuition vouchers or any other program that would have an effect of a tuition voucher program, and conveys the importance of supporting and improving the quality of all public schools in the Commonwealth.

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

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Superintendent's Report

Dr. Myers reported the following:

1. In response to Mr. Fox's question last week about whether the cafeteria staff is required to wear hairnets, Dr. Myers learned from Mrs. Byler that the food service regulations do not require hairnets; they wear hats.
2. The greenhouse bid opening was held and we are back to the drawing board. The bids came in around \$200,000.
3. Governor Wolf presented his budget proposal for 2018-2019 and he is requesting an increase for education. Dr. Myers stated that additional money would be a lifeline for our District.

Financial Reports

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

Other Business

Mr. Fox commented that if hairnets are not required, will students be served hairy food?

Mr. Gregor stated that the original budget for renovations was \$45,000-\$50,000 which is a result of getting an architect involved and paying prevailing wage. Public schools have different code requirements than businesses. He also asked Dr. Myers if she got a response to his Erie County Technical School questions. She stated she did and she would discuss it with him later.

Executive Session

Mr. Trauner announced that following adjournment an Executive Session will be held for the Board members only for the purpose of personnel discussion.

Adjournment

Mr. Blakeslee moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Gregor. The motion to adjourn was unanimously approved.

Mr. Trauner adjourned the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Sill
School Board Secretary