

Union City Area School District
SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING
Elementary Large Group Instruction Room
January 3, 2019

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, Douglas Hopson, Lori Lewis, Barbara Miller, David Robinson and George Trauner were present. Brian Gregor was absent.

Others Present

Matthew Bennett, Amy Coleman, Tara Lineman, Adam Shrou, Melissa Tomcho, Daniel Keefer, Stacey Mulson, Amy Webber, Steve Thompson, Timothy Brown, Krista Byler, Ann Sill, Dona Fox, Sharon Reagle, and Racquel Gray were present.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Bennett reported as follows:

- January is School Director Recognition Month. A certificate was put at each Board members place prior to the meeting. He then read a statement provided by PSBA. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book] He expressed his gratitude to the Board for all that they do for the District and its students. Mr. Trauner asked Mr. Blakeslee if this was his 20th year as a member of our School Board to which Mr. Blakeslee replied that July will be 20 years. Mr. Trauner informed Mr. Blakeslee that he would have donated approximately 2,400 hours of time for Board meetings. Mr. Bennett asked the Board to gather for photo which will be posted on the District website.
- Bus Drop-Off Clarification: After discussion at the December 6 Board meeting, Mr. Bennett spoke again with Mr. Mangel who had consulted with his drivers who was informed that the procedure had been students in K4 through 2nd grade need someone at the bus stop, not K4 through 3rd grade. Since the process has been working well, Mr. Bennett and Mr. Mangel agreed this should continue.
- Forestry Update: The boundaries have been marked and trees will be marked beginning tomorrow through Tuesday. Once the trees are marked, Mr. Ackerman will put a package together and the District will advertise for tree removal. Educational opportunities will be made available for teachers who are interested.

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- School Policy Updates: PSBA has completed Section 100. There are 46 policies in this section and 30 of these are new. They were reviewed by our Administrative team over break, editing the drafts to meet District needs. In order to get through the revisions needed for our Board policies, Mr. Bennett recommends the Board adopt half in February and the other half in March. There will be one reading at the Committee of the Whole meeting followed by adoption at the next week's voting meeting. A summary of the entire 100 section was distributed to the Board. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book] It was asked if the policies would be available on the website for previewing to which Mr. Bennett replied the Board would be receiving copies via e-mail in pdf format. He further stated that PSBA has begun work on the 200 section which is a larger section. He stated it will be a two-year process to get the entire policy book completed.

- On next week's agenda is a resolution to oppose implementation of the "Safe 2 Say Something" initiative. Mr. Bennett stated that the concept of "Safe 2 Say" is good (which has a tip line for reporting when things are deemed wrong), but he, like many other superintendents and administrators across the state, feel it is being rushed. Pennsylvania is the first state to go live which will happen on January 14 when any student in grades 6-12 can anonymously submit a tip. He asked the Board to imagine the cumbersome job of trying to follow up on all of those tips across the state. Colorado is in the process of repealing some of their requirements in their program. It was developed due to the Sandy Hook incident. This resolution will notify the state Attorney General's office that we are opposed to the way they are doing it and there needs to be a way to responsibly follow through. In response to the many PA school districts who have already adopted and submitted their resolution of opposition, the Attorney General's office sent out an e-mail today stating they have heard school districts' responses but it is still going live on January 14 with no alternative.

Presentation

Mrs. Coleman, Mrs. Tomcho and Mr. Shroul gave a PowerPoint presentation on the **District's State Assessment**. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book] Mr. Shroul and Mrs. Tomcho reviewed with the Board the areas in their buildings that either exceed, are on target, or fall short of the state average. Mrs. Coleman added that these reports will help with planning for the future. Mr. Shroul stated that to achieve goals and increase student learning, several Elementary teachers were transferred to a different grade-level or subject to accentuate their strengths and age group preferences. The teachers were involved in this process. Professional development courses were offered to assist teachers in the transition. Mrs. Tomcho added that her building developed a District-wide Curriculum Core Committee. Math and science teachers have begun reviewing resources to enhance curriculum along with the addition of Chromebooks and related professional development. She added that our Truancy Officer has logged 196 phone calls and scheduled 57 truancy elimination meetings and the District's graduation rate is holding steady.

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Mrs. Coleman stated curriculum will be reviewed District-wide with administrators and teachers, and a survey is being developed to gather student and staff input to determine needs and wants. A ten-year curriculum plan is being created, and she hopes to present a draft of this plan to the Board next month. Questions from the Board were responded to including further information about the transfer of Elementary teachers to another grade level, the elimination of business math at ECTS, and math courses provided here for our students to meet various academic abilities. Mr. Robinson, Executive Director of the Union City Family Support Center, commended the Elementary School. Their recent focus group with the K4 and Kindergarten teachers showed that 40% of students entering these grades for the first time do not have language and communication skills and the number of children with special needs is increasing. In his position of working with families and seeing their severe needs at home, he said what our School and teachers are able to do to help families, rebound the children's academic success, and have such a high graduation rate is phenomenal. Mr. Bennett thanked the team for condensing this mountain of information to provide this presentation. Input continues to be gathered from teachers and administrators, and teachers are working together to help increase student learning. It was asked if this information is live on our website. Mrs. Coleman responded that it's not linked to the District website but is available by searching the web for PA Future Ready Index.

Administrative Reports [See Supplementals enclosed in the Minutes Book]

Mrs. Lineman was thanked for including the budget schedule. It was also asked what "e-rate" project is. It was explained that it's a state funding project where a set amount of money is given over a five-year period and we're in our last year. Mrs. Lineman stated that in past years, the Board Retreat for budget review has been held on a Saturday in March. She asked the Board if this year they would like to hold it immediately before the March 7 Committee of the Whole meeting (say at 3:00 p.m.) or on Thursday, March 21, starting at 6:00 p.m. and running until they are finished. Following discussion, the consensus was to hold it on Thursday, March 21, beginning at 5:00 p.m. Finally, it was asked how much money is in the bank. Mrs. Lineman replied we have \$5.7 million in the fund balance. Information on the bond was also questioned to which she replied information will be in her financial reports available for next week's meeting, or she can review the information personally if anyone wants to come to her office. Finally, it was asked if a Board member was present for the signing of the bonds to which Mr. Trauner replied that he was.

Mr. Keefer showed a video done by WJET of our District hosting a college signing ceremony for Abby Anaya who will be attending Mercyhurst on both academic and athletic scholarships. Tomorrow there will be a signing ceremony for William Burgess will be attending with Seton Hill also on a scholarship. Accolades are still coming in for our fall sports. To Mr. Keefer's knowledge, Matt Long and Gavin Henry were the first student athletes in the District chosen as all-state football players, and both were chosen for the first team.

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Mrs. Webber was asked to expound upon the students transitioning into Kindergarten with and IEP. She stated that there are approximately 17 students compared to last year when there were 8-10. These are children coming from various pre-school programs. Mrs. Mulson added that there are parents who are not aware or choose not to take advantage of early intervention services. It was asked why parents send their children to Kindergarten who are not in our K4 program. Mrs. Mulson responded that some parents often opt for other four-year-old programs who offer a full-day program rather than our program which is half day. We are investigating the possibility of instituting a full-day K4 program. There was further discussion about the state's mandatory entrance age of eight years old.

Mr. Thompson was questioned about the hot tub. He stated they are awaiting the motor which was difficult to find. It should be arriving in a couple of weeks. The arrival of the starter blocks was also questioned. Mr. Bennett stated that local companies were considered but it came down to the size of the company and ability to underwrite the insurance. Although we have not been able to contact the company due to shut down for the holidays, the timeframe for delivery remains the same. Mr. Thompson added that with the fair weather, the District has been saving money by not needing to use salt and cinders.

Mrs. Byler was asked about the location of Turner's Dairy which she replied is based in Pittsburgh. Additionally, she reported that they have been making salads with kale from the hydroponics lab and it has been well received.

Representative Reports

Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit Board of Directors

Mr. Trauner reported that they had a short meeting and will likely be hiring an Assistant Executive Director. He feels Dr. Maynard may be thinking about retirement.

Erie County Technical School Joint Operating Committee

Mr. Gilbert reported that his first meeting held last month was three hours long and there are four new JOC members. There may be an early bird contract settlement for the clerical staff and support staff. Chris Coughlin's group was hired as the architectural firm for the anticipated renovation which may total about \$34 million. A committee will be formed to do walkthroughs for planning what needs to be done first. ECTS is not eligible for PlanCon. There are 31 safety items on the Act 44 list that they are working on. Career Street is transitioning under GECAC. There was an open house in November and 1,324 freshmen toured the facilities. The honor roll was announce for November and December which included 14 Union City students with eight having perfect attendance and four having distinguished honors.

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Other Business

Mr. Trauner asked the Board to pull up next week's draft agenda. He reminded the Board that there will no longer be Committees A and B. He requested that they review the draft agenda ahead of time and stated that if they have questions, they are to ask them during review of the draft agenda at the Committee of the Whole meeting. If questions surface later, he asked that they get them answered prior to the voting meeting, particularly finance questions or on items for approval. Mr. Trauner also reminded the Board of how the voting will work. Items are grouped in alphabetical order (Academic, Co-Curricular, etc.) and the motions will not be read, but the President/Vice President will ask for a motion to approve the items by number or group of numbers under the various headings unless any Board member would like them separated due to a required or desired abstention, desire to table a vote, or a "nay" vote on one of the motions. He reviewed the draft agenda by groups. There were no questions from the Board.

Mr. Trauner announced that he would not be able to attend next week's meeting and Mrs. Lewis would be running the meeting. Mr. Robinson also requested being excused.

Finally, Mr. Trauner urged everyone to be sure they have working carbon monoxide detectors in their homes. He and Mr. Hopson showed up at a friend's home and likely saved the family's lives. They had a furnace failure which leached carbon monoxide into their home and thought they had the flu.

Adjournment

Mr. Blakeslee moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Fox.

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

Executive Session

Mr. Trauner reminded the Board that an Executive Session for the purpose of personnel discussion would follow adjournment.

Mr. Trauner declared the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Sill
School Board Secretary