

Union City Area School District
SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING
Elementary Large Group Instruction Room
February 7, 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, Officer Steve Oler, Kelly Knauff, Racquel Gray, Frank Snyder, Sharon Reagle, Collin Hedderick, and Katie Brozell were present.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Bennett reported as follows:

- Erie County Technical January Pride Student of the Month: Mrs. Tomcho introduced Collin Hedderick who is in the metal fabrication course. Mrs. Tomcho added that Stevie Kinnear, ECTS cosmetology student, was also selected as January Pride Student of the Month, but was unable to attend tonight's meeting. Katie Brozell was also introduced and Mrs. Tomcho stated that she and Collin had to leave promptly as they were participating in tonight's Winter Sports Queen Court at the High School.
- Musical School Closing Video: A brief clip of the musical video Mr. Shrou created to announce the closing of school a couple of weeks ago was shown to those in attendance.
- School Police Officer Introduction: Mr. Bennett introduced Officer Steve Oler, to the Board. Officer Oler stated that he has met with each class in the Middle School/High School and will be reading to the Elementary Classes in the Library next week. He has made some inexpensive safety recommendations and helped with Navigate to photograph each room in all of the buildings which is part of the \$25,000, 3-year safety grant. He and Mr. Bennett attended a Hipster conference at Slippery Rock University for bullying and will participate in a conference call next week to determine if it's something the District wants to pursue. The Board had no questions, and Officer Oler left the meeting to cover a District event.
- Donkey Basketball: Mr. Bennett thanked everyone for their part in the Donkey Basketball event. There were many compliments from the community and everyone seemed to have a great time.

Union City Area School District
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES
COMMITTEE MEETING –February 7, 2019

- 2019-2020 school calendar: The proposed calendar was distributed to the Board. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book] Mr. Bennett explained that this proposal was reviewed by Administrators, Teachers, Students and Mr. Mangel. It does not strictly adhere to the Erie County Technical School calendar in that there is an earlier start date for students, the Tuesday after Thanksgiving will be a vacation day (due to usually high student absenteeism), Parent-Teacher conferences will be held in October, and the full week before Easter will be spring break (provided the snow make-up days are not needed). Mr. Bennett explained that following discussion with primary teachers, it was recommended not to start with a five-day school week as it's too exhausting for young children. As a result, the 3-day, 4-day, 5-day start weeks were developed. He spoke with Bill Mangel and ECTS students to be assured that since this calendar does not follow the ECTS calendar as closely as in the past, attendance would not be a problem. The students stated it would not be since transportation is provided. The last day is not delayed and compares to the current calendar. One Board member was in full support of this calendar stating this schedule is very good for young students to ease into the start of a new school year. All questions were responded to. Mr. Bennett stated that the calendar will be on next week's agenda for approval.
- New PSBA draft policies: Mr. Bennett asked if there were any questions. There were none. He explained that Policy 003 has to do with adoption of policies and the number of readings prior to approval which is being changed from three to two. The 200's are important to have approved now as they will be procedures for preparing next year's student handbooks.
- Graduation location: There was discussion on the location for graduation. The Elementary gym has a total capacity of 725. It was learned that with approximately 1,000 tickets historically distributed, we have been out of compliance with the fire code. The Middle School/High School gym has a capacity of 950. The Elementary Gym is air conditioned; the MSHS gym is not at this time. Mr. Bennett has spoken with SmartEdge and they will attempt to get the main gym roof completed so the big AC unit can be installed prior to graduation, but if that does not happen, big fans can be used to create air flow. The other option is to continue using the Elementary gym and reducing the number of tickets normally offered to graduates (8 per student). Mr. Bennett asked the Board to let him know their preference by next week.

Union City Area School District
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES
COMMITTEE MEETING –February 7, 2019

Presentations

1. Mrs. Knauff and Mrs. Tomcho presented information about the proposed **8th grade trip to Washington DC**. Mrs. Knauff stated that she and Mrs. Dobrzynski (who was unable to attend tonight's meeting) are in charge of trip. Mrs. Knauff presented a PowerPoint regarding the details of the trip [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book] and gave a sample parent packet to Mr. Bennett which he passed around the Board table. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book] Mrs. Knauff and Mrs. Tomcho responded to questions from the Board regarding chaperones, eligibility, fundraising and liability. Mr. Bennett explained that after having been in charge of such field trips for eleven years at his previous school district, the Board needs to approve this trip per legal recommendation. It will be a motion on next week's agenda.
2. Mrs. Coleman presented the **Ten-Year Curriculum Plan**. She distributed a budget handout to the Board. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book] Compilation was a team effort and resources are streamlined. The ten-year savings will be \$718,110.20. She responded to questions from the Board. Mr. Bennett thanked the team for their work on this huge project.
3. Mrs. Coleman then presented a handout for **Boardworks**, an on-line curriculum system that is purchased one time and is owned by the District forever. The one-time cost is \$19,602 which comes to \$17.82 per student and is for all students K4 through 12. It supplements current curriculum, is helpful for differentiated learning, and has a interactive graph for math. Teacher input has been very favorable and it has been included in the budget for the 2019-2020 school year. Questions from the Board were answered.
4. Mrs. Coleman and Mrs. Tomcho explained the **Social Studies Curriculum**. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book] The changes they are recommending are three-fold – to help streamline the master schedule, to eliminate the High School Social Studies credit currently given in 8th grade, and to do what's best for the students. Currently there are only three required credits for Social Studies; all other core subjects have four. The goal is to move the Social Studies credit out of the 8th grade to 10th grade where there is currently no Social Studies course offered, adjusting the sequence of courses and electives. Mrs. Coleman explained the changes via the PowerPoint presentation. Teachers were involved in forming ideas so elective classes and student were surveyed to see what would appeal to the greatest number of students. When asked what motivated the change, Mr. Bennett stated he was initially charged with streamlining the schedule and they have been working on this since the beginning of the school year. It was discovered the 8th grade High School credit created some problems including one with students' transcripts, and the goal is to put the best plan forward for our student. Information was gathered by looking at several other local districts' curriculum, and talking with teachers and students. There was further discussion by the Board. The graduation requirements will remain at 28 credits, Social Studies credits be increased from 3 to 3.5 and STEM reduced from 1 to .5 starting with next year's freshman class (Class of 2023).

Union City Area School District
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES
COMMITTEE MEETING –February 7, 2019

Public Comment

Mrs. Racquel Gray, High School Teacher and Union President, thanked the Board on behalf of the Association for all they do for the District. She distributed cards of thanks to each person at the Board table.

Administrative Reports [See Supplementals enclosed in the Minutes Book]

Mrs. Lineman was asked the fund balance (\$5.7 million). She was also asked if the fuel card was a locked-in price which she replied it is not, it's an application process and a co-star price. Mrs. Lineman added that Governor Wolf presented his budget on Tuesday. He is proposing to increase Basic Education Funding by \$166 million, Ready to Learn – flat funding, \$50 million in Special Education funding, \$45 million in Safety and Security, level funding for Transportation, and increase the base pay for teachers \$45,000. Our base pay for teachers for the 19/20 school year is \$44,106, short by \$894. She was asked if she knew there is an attempt to raise the minimum wage. She did and will provide a cost analysis for the retreat.

Mrs. Byler was congratulated on her published scratch cooking article. She added that they have been feeding Andromeda House students (at St. Teresa's) and was presented with handmade thank you cards from the students which she showed the Board.

Representative Reports

Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit Board of Directors

Mr. Trauner had nothing to report.

Erie County Technical School Joint Operating Committee

Mr. Gilbert stated he was unable to attend the last meeting.

Other Business

The first reading of new PSBA policies 003, 100-115, 200, 201, 204 and 251 were presented.

Mr. Trauner reminded the Board that an **Executive Session** for the purpose of Personnel and Legal discussion would follow adjournment.

There were no questions on the draft agenda.

Mr. Trauner asked if someone was needed to attend the Volleyball Head Coach interview tomorrow to which Mrs. Tomcho replied yes. Mr. Fox offered to attend.

Union City Area School District
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES
COMMITTEE MEETING –February 7, 2019

Adjournment

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

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.

Mr. Trauner declared the meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Sill
School Board Secretary