

**Union City Area School District**  
**SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Elementary Large Group Instruction Room**  
**March 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, David Robinson and George Trauner were present. Brian Gregor and Barbara Miller were absent.

**Others Present**

Matthew Bennett, Amy Coleman, Tara Lineman, Adam Shrout, Melissa Tomcho, Daniel Keefer, Stacey Mulson, Amy Webber, Steve Thompson, Timothy Brown, Krista Byler, Ann Sill, Kelly Knauff, Lynora Knauff, Cathy Dobrzynski, Brooke Dylon, Frank Snyder, Jennifer Drayer, Bryce Drayer, Jo'el Russo, Jeannette Boyd, Jacob Wolf, Tanner Pike, and Janel Pike were present.

**Presentations**

1. Jo'el Russo from **Highmark** distributed information to the Board and spoke about Highmark's Telemedicine (Virtual Doctor) program. This is available to District employees under the Highmark health insurance plan and the co-pay per visit is \$15.00 for up to a 15 minute session. It is for acute, minor virtual on-line doctor visits from one's home computer, smartphone or tablet and can be accessed by subscribers from anywhere. It also contains a wellness component. Questions from the Board were responded to. [See Supplementals enclosed in the Minutes Book]
2. Forester Tim Ackerman gave a PowerPoint presentation and updated the Board on the status of the **timber sale**. Handouts were given to the Board. [See Supplementals enclosed in the Minutes Book] There are 363 trees marked for removal. Most are ash, sugar maple and black cherry. There are approximately 42,800 board feet of lumber with 15,000 of that being ash. The 7-11" diameter trees go for firewood or pulpwood (paper). Educational opportunities will be available for students. Protected trees (hickory, oak and cherry) are marked by a blue band and noted in the contract that they cannot be damaged.
3. Mrs. Coleman presented information on next year's **Middle School Proposed Schedule**. The Board was given a handout. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book] There will continue to be the five main core classes (math, reading English, Science and Social Studies, and two periods blocked off for math. The remaining two periods will be for specials. Students will have a choice of music (general music, band or chorus) plus art, health and physical education for one period each week and a grade-specific special (6<sup>th</sup> grade will have Coding and Exploring Technology; 7<sup>th</sup> grade will have a semester of Family and

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Consumer Science and one of Computer Skills and 8<sup>th</sup> grade will have a semester of Industrial Arts on one semester of Health. She added that the PA Smart Grant was received for \$35,000 and will be used for training and resources for teachers of the STEM courses. There will no longer be a separate study skills class. Instead it will be incorporated in the core classes. Again, math will be a double period as a result of struggling scores. All Middle School students will have music, health and PE all year long. Due to scheduling, health and PE will co-ed by grade level for the most part.

**Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Bennett reported as follows:

1. Mr. Bennett acknowledged Mrs. Byler who was featured in a photo along with some congressmen on the cover of this week's School Nutrition Association newsletter. A copy was distributed for the Board to see (and is also included with Mrs. Byler's report). Mrs. Byler was congratulated.
2. Batch #2 of PSBA policies are included in this agenda for the first reading. If any Board member has questions, they should contact Mr. Bennett.
3. Mrs. Tomcho and Mr. Keefer met with the seniors and also provided an on-line survey offered to all seniors regarding where they wanted to hold graduation, explaining the various scenarios. Out of the 87 seniors, 71 responded to the survey and 94.4% of those who responded want graduation to be held in the Middle School/High School (main) gym this year. Fans will be used to circulate air if needed if the air conditioners have not yet been installed.
4. Students were also asked about the awards ceremonies (Academic and Athletics) being held in an evening instead of during school, but 64.4% of the students prefer it continue to be held during the day.
5. The drawings and specs on PlanCon E is expected by Tuesday. Once Mr. Bennett receives them, he will forward the information to the Board.
6. Mr. Bennett and other superintendents met with Representative Curt Sonney on February 28. Rep. Sonney is sponsoring a bill that would require parents of cyber-charter school students to pay their child's tuition if their child's home school district has its own cyber program (which we do). He urged the Board to contact their representatives to support this bill if they haven't already done so. This is very important and it has the best chance this bill has of being passed. It is House Bill 526.
7. Next week he has an exciting meeting scheduled with Parker-Hannifin representatives regarding possible cooperative agreements that will include our Life Skills class- following a tour given to Mr. Bennett by Mr. Hopson.

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**Public Comment**

1. **Jacob Wolf**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Fire Chief of the Union City Volunteer Fire Department addressed the Board about Knox Boxes which would be installed at various entrances of the District to hold master keys to be utilized by the Fire Department in the event they need to gain entrance to the buildings in the event of an emergency. He distributed a handout to the Board. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book] He asked that if anyone had questions to contact him.
  
2. **Brooke Dylan, Bryce Drayer and Tanner Pike** each spoke thanking the Board for approving the upcoming 8<sup>th</sup> grade field trip to Washington DC. Mr. Trauner read a related thank-you note that from the Class of 2023.

**Administrative Reports** [See Supplementals enclosed in the Minutes Book]

Mrs. Lineman reminded the Board of the retreat set for Thursday, March 21 at 5:00 p.m. which will be held in the Middle School/High School Library. It was asked if they could be given the proposed budget books in advance. Mrs. Lineman said she could have them available at next week's Board meeting.

Mr. Thompson was asked how the (front door) glass was broken. Mr. Thompson didn't know. He was also congratulated on the purchase of the swim blocks. Finally, it was mentioned that the "Do Not Enter" sign by the pool area going onto Academy Drive is hidden by the stop sign.

Mrs. Byler was commended on the (USDA Equipment) grant (for conveyor dishwasher replacement).

**Representative Reports**

Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit Board of Directors

Mr. Trauner reported that the IU's 2019-2020 preliminary budget was reviewed with the districts' business managers and is on next week's agenda for approval. He and Dr. Maynard will also be conducting interviews for the three candidates for the new Assistant Executive Director position.

Erie County Technical School Joint Operating Committee

Mr. Gilbert reported that they have been busy working on the budget. The JOC approved it and our District will be voting on it in April. Our District's contribution is 2.38% or about \$17,000. He added that 68% of the budget is funded by the participating school districts, 8% from adult education classes, and the remaining 24% by state and federal aid. The \$34-million renovation project is on hold. Millcreek will not support it. Additional information is desired and a committee made up of superintendents and a couple of JOC members has been formed to scale back the renovations or to break it up into three or four phases. Four classes are in jeopardy of being eliminated due to student interest and two classes are large. It was suggested to determine what type of training local businesses are seeking. Career Street will be turned over to a third party to operate.

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The low classes were Electronics, Hospitality and one of the Automotive classes. It was added that the cost for each district's contribution is calculated by the housing value of their district. It was also added that one Board member toured the Corry Vo-Tech and was impressed. Mr. Gilbert added that ECTS is physically in bad shape and is past due for renovation.

**Other Business**

Mr. Trauner presented the first reading of new PSBA policies 000-002, 004-011 and 116-150.

The Board was asked to review next week's draft agenda. The following questions were asked:

1. Academics and the ten-year plan – if funding is being approved along with the plan. Mr. Bennett stated that funding is being approved and under this plan, less money will be spent than previously. That much will not necessarily be expended but the money is set aside if needed.
2. Finance – Mrs. Lineman was asked if she had a breakdown on the IU budget. She will bring it to the retreat. The difference is an increase of \$106,000 from 2018-2019 to 2019-2020. It's dependent on the number of students in the program, and it's reconciled at the end. It was also asked if the fuel bid was approved. Mrs. Lineman stated that she presented the fuel card at last month's meeting and is hoping to go with that option rather than a fuel bid so the bus drivers have more options of where to stop rather than being restricted to one location. It was added that with the new dollar store in Bloomfield Township, it hurt business at the Lincan gas station/grocery store. Mrs. Lineman will investigate.
3. Personnel – It was asked if it is anticipated that any more names will be added to the retirement incentive motion before next week. Mr. Bennett believes there will be. The deadline is April 2.

If there are any questions on the Financial Reports, Mr. Trauner directed the Board to contact him or Mr. Bennett.

Mr. Keefer reported on the wrestlers who are currently at the State Championship event. Unfortunately, William Burgess lost both of his matches, so his high school career has come to an end. Gavin Henry and Matt Long both won their first match with a pin. They will wrestle again tomorrow. They have to win one more match before they lose two. If they win their next match they are in the semi-finals on Saturday. The student body is being kept informed of their progress.

In anticipation of the budget preparation, it was suggested to have the same amount of life insurance given to both contracted and non-contracted employees.

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**Executive Session**

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

**Adjournment**

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

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

Mr. Trauner declared the meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Sill  
School Board Secretary