

**Union City Area School District**  
**SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Elementary Large Group Instruction Room**  
**April 4, 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, Barbara Miller, David Robinson and George Trauner were present. Brian Gregor and Lori Lewis were absent.

**Others Present**

Matthew Bennett, Amy Coleman, Tara Lineman, Melissa Tomcho, Daniel Keefer, Stacey Mulson, Amy Webber, Steve Thompson, Timothy Brown, Krista Byler, Ann Sill, Kim DeSimone, Blaine R. Walp, Jasmine Esh and Racquel Gray were present.

**Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Bennett reported as follows:

1. Mr. Bennett read a letter from upcoming retiree Elementary teacher David Brown praising the District and grateful for his employment here. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book]
2. PlanCon A and B were approved last month but PDE requires the documents need to be included in the minutes. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book]

*Mrs. Lewis arrived at 6:07 p.m.*

3. A request for agendas to be made available to the public before the meeting was made. Mr. Bennett did research and reported as follows
  - Agendas are constantly changing right up to the meeting, and previous Boards did not want to put an unfinished agenda out to the public.
  - There is no legal requirement to publish agendas in advance.
  - If approved, the agenda for the next meeting would be put on the website marked as "draft."
  - Several surrounding school district post their agenda on their district's website.

There was discussion regarding the request and it was noted that the article published by the Journal stated the District is not transparent. One Board member thought the agenda was posted for the public and another said it shouldn't be made public until finalized. Mr. Trauner asked that a motion be placed on the April 11 agenda that the Board can vote up or down.

4. Mr. Bennett requested advertising for a voting meeting every week in April for personnel approval. The meeting would be very brief but would expedite planning. Following discussion the Board agreed to hold special meetings on Thursday April 18, and Thursday, April 25.

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5. Mr. Bennett stated that he will be attending the PARSS (Pennsylvania Association of Rural and Small Schools) Conference early May and would not be here for the May 2 Committee of the Whole meeting. He asked the Board if they would prefer to change the meeting to one night earlier (Wednesday, May 1), or have Mrs. Coleman give the Superintendent's Report items and respond to questions and keep the meeting on May 2 as scheduled. The Board chose to keep the meeting on Thursday, May 2.
6. SmartEdge will be working 2<sup>nd</sup> shift on lighting so as to minimize disruption during the school day and will be scheduled to work around spring sports.
7. Mr. Bennett thanked the Board members who've given their time to sit in on this week's interviews and stated there are some upcoming interviews in need of a Board member. He thanked Mr. Blakeslee in advance for agreeing to come in next week for the Art interviews and asked the Board to let him know if they'd like to attend any of the other interviews scheduled for next week.

Dr. Miller and Mr. Robinson stated they would not be able to attend next week's meeting (April 11).

**Public Comment**

Retiring teacher, **Mr. Blaine Walp**, put a pound of butter on each Board table to represent his parents and grandparents who were farmers. He stated that his grandfather was also a teacher and principal. He thanked the Board for the 28 years he taught at Union City and said it will be difficult to leave. He has many wonderful memories that he will take with him.

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

Mrs. Lineman gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the 2019-2020 preliminary budget as a response to questions that the Board sent to her following her presentation at their retreat. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book] Mr. Trauner explained that the Board's retreat was a work session to receive information about the preliminary budget. There was no discussion. Questions were written down by Board members and given to Mrs. Lineman following her presentation. In response to the PSERS projections and installment payments for real estate taxes, she stated that she will give a presentation on those next week.

Mr. Keefer showed a brief video of Gavin Henry signing with Davidson College (North Carolina) where he received a wrestling scholarship. Mr. Keefer added that it's exciting to see our student athletes excel and move on to college athletics. He added that spring sports are in full swing and on Saturday, softball and baseball games will be held at 1:00 p.m. if anyone is interested in attending.

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Mrs. Coleman informed the Board that it was recently learned that our practice of allowing students who participate in two PIAA sports per year to use that in lieu of a the ½ credit for Physical Education is not permitted by PDE. The procedure will be changed in the handbook and will become effective with incoming freshmen.

It was asked about the low enrollment at last month's K4 and Kindergarten registration. Mr. Bennett stated that the number, as listed in Mr. Shrout's report, is typically where we are this time of year. There are always additional sign-ups in the summer, especially in August.

Mr. Thompson was asked if the GFI (on the softball scoreboard) was repaired to which he replied that it was removed. He was asked about the disintegrating posts supporting the overhang at the entrance of the Elementary School and if plastic posts could be used in the future. Mr. Thompson replied that should not be a problem, or the overhang could be removed.

Mrs. Lineman was asked to share the results of the timber bid opening. She stated that three bids received – Firth Maple Products (for \$19,000), Network Forest Products, LLC (for \$15,484) and C. Miller Lumber (for \$15,010). She asked the Board if they would like to accept the highest bidder to approve next week to which they unanimously agreed. It was suggested to set aside money in a fund for future management of the timber.

Mrs. Byler was commended for the article she was asked to write for School Nutrition Association regarding the Legislative Action Conference she attended. She was also thanked for providing refreshments at the Committee meetings. Mrs. Byler added that Bimbo Bakeries USA, Inc. was the only bakery willing to place a bid for our whole grain accounts for the remainder of the school year.

### **Representative Reports**

#### Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit Board of Directors

Mr. Trauner reported that he was on the search and interview team for an Assistant Executive Director and announced that Brad Whitman was selected for the position.

#### Erie County Technical School Joint Operating Committee

Mr. Gilbert reported that the JOC met last Thursday, March 28 and reported as follows:

1. GECAC will be taking over the Career Street program. Each district will be invoiced a \$3,500 membership fee for access toward the GECAC Career Street program.
2. An early bird settlement is anticipated with the clerical staff contract.
3. There is a strong possibility in instituting a Jr. ROTC Program. A feasibility study will be conducted to determine interest.

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4. The renovation committee met once. They're working on getting money from the state. Their April 5 meeting was cancelled and has not been rescheduled to date.
5. Thirty-three District freshmen have signed up to attend ECTS. Some slots are limited. UC has the largest class of all participating schools.
6. There are two at-risk programs – Electronics only has 11 students and Precision Machining is short two students. Dr. Walker checks the at-risk classes daily to try to turn it around. Mr. Gilbert said that the Precision Machining being at-risk surprised him as companies are looking for employees trained in machining. He questioned how these classes are being marketed, adding that those trained in machining and tool and die can make \$20-\$25/hour with full benefits. Mr. Bennett was asked if ECTS visits the districts to present their offerings to students. He replied that they do, and the superintendents have discussed how to change their delivery to make that process better. Mrs. Coleman is working on the career pathways and has a plan to show students what careers are available.

It was asked what will be done with the \$3,500 Career Street membership fee. Mr. Bennett explained that districts have been invoiced all along with some of it being returned to district in field trips. As the program has been running a deficit, the field trips are no longer offered. The fee goes to running the program, bringing presenters to schools, help with curriculum and access to their website. It was asked if a chart was still available for students showing what the starting salaries are for various careers. Mr. Bennett stated our Guidance Department produces such a chart which is available on-line. Mrs. Coleman added that Erie Together Task Force also has such a document and we're working toward producing a booklet with all of our pathways and related information. She is looking for graduates who are employed in some of these fields to present their career paths to students. Mr. Trauner stated he would be happy to speak on social services.

### **Other Business**

Mr. Trauner presented the first reading of new PSBA policies 202-222. Mr. Hopson requested that the PSBA draft policies be shared with the Board as "live" pdf documents (rather than scanned) so they can be searched.

Mr. Trauner asked the Board to access the draft agenda. Mr. Trauner asked that the Bethesda checks be put in with the regular checks rather than a separate item. There were no other questions or comments on the motions on the draft agenda. He reminded the Board to ask any question of the Administration as they come up. If asked at the meeting, they might not be able to respond accurately.

### **Executive Session**

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

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**Adjournment**

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

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 7:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Sill  
School Board Secretary