

Union City Area School District
SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING
Elementary Large Group Instruction Room
September 6, 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 and George Trauner were present. David Robinson was absent.

Others Present

Matthew Bennett, Joan Quickle, Tara Lineman, Adam Shroul, Dan Keefer, Stacey Mulson, Amy Webber, Steve Thompson, Ann Sill, Jasmine Esh, Teresa Pacileo, Matt Long, Gavin Henry, Jamie Doyle (PFM), William Stevens, Steph Murphy, Jennifer Drayer, Lauren Murphy, Blake Hornaman, Peyton Jackson, William Burgess, Andrew Hoban, Maddy Drayer, Mike Bocianowski, Frank Snyder, Glenn Shaffer and Tim Petrilla were present.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Bennett reported as follows:

1. The following students were introduced who would be assisting the Board members set up their new Chromebooks: Matt Long, Gavin Henry, Blake Hornaman, William Burgess, Andrew Hoban, Lauren Murphy, Maddy Drayer and Peyton Jackson. After the students assisted the Board, they exited the meeting.

Mr. Trauner announced that if anyone in the audience had not signed in to please do so before leaving tonight's meeting.

Mr. Robinson arrived at 6:14 p.m.

2. Mr. Bennett congratulated MSHS Art teacher Mike Bocianowski as being named 2018 Outstanding New Professional Art Educator of the State of Pennsylvania. He will receive an award at the Pennsylvania Art Education Association Conference on October 6.
3. The District received the Rural and Low-Income Schools Grant. (Information was distributed to the Board concerning this grant. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book])
4. Revision of our School Policies by PSBA Policy Services was investigated. The cost will be \$2,700 per year for the next three years. They will go through the entire policy book and make the needed updates. Money is available in the budget for this. Another handout was given to the Board. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book]
5. Mr. Thompson's crew removed the damaged and dangerous fence near the old tennis court.

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6. Sale of timber was investigated and another handout distributed. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book] Tim Ackerman, Forester for the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, was contacted to investigate the condition of the timber on District property. It was found that many of the ash trees are in poor condition, and removal now would prevent their demise as well as will permit growth of the healthy trees. Educational opportunities will be offered for the Ag Science classes as the trees are marked and invasive species pointed out. The work will be put out to bid with recommendation made by the Board at no charge. The Cross Country course will be as good or better than it is currently. It was asked if this would be crossing over onto property owned Parker-Hannifin but Mr. Thompson replied it would not. It was confirmed that this company is fully insured.
7. The PTO has provided a large TV as promised, which has been installed in the main gym lobby and looks great.
8. Mr. Bennett referred the Board to the current Home School policy and PDE documents in their agenda packet [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book] Several families have requested that their home schooled or private tutored children be permitted to attend one or more classes at the District. Currently, the Board policy does not allow for these students to enroll in classes. However, according to the PA school code, that is a choice each home school district can make. It was explained that if any of these non-District students are enrolled part-time in our schools, the District will be eligible for reimbursement for the percent of time each child attends classes here. Busing was discussed and Mr. Bennett explained that it would be the parents' responsibility to transport, although for classes first thing in the morning, for example, arrangements could be made to have Mangel's transport. The Board gave Mr. Bennett the go-ahead to ask Attorney Moore to revise the policy to make these accommodations.
9. During the summer in-service, there was discussion on communication with parents among the teachers and administrators present. Postcards were designed and distributed to the school offices for teachers and staff to be mailed home to parents acknowledging student accolades. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book]
10. Finally, Mr. Bennett informed the Board that for those wishing to take their Chromebooks home, chargers are available in the box on the front table.

PlanCon Presentation

Mr. Bennett, Mrs. Lineman, and Jamie Doyle of Public Financial Management (PFM) gave a presentation on the plans for District renovation. A PowerPoint was shown on the screen and three options were given with lengthy discussion and responses to questions from the Board. Ms. Doyle gave a document to the Board and Mr. Bennett distributed several handouts relating to the proposed renovation. At the end, Mr. Bennett asked the Board for permission to get a Request for Proposal. [See Supplementals enclosed in the Minutes Book]

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Administrative Reports [See Supplementals enclosed in the Minutes Book]

Mrs. Lineman was thanked for her thoroughness in her part of the PlanCon presentation. She was also asked who is eligible for the new Carlburg Memorial Scholarship as per her report. She stated all UC graduates are eligible. She was asked how much money the District has in the bank, to which she replied about \$5.1 million. Mrs. Lineman also informed the Board that concerns were brought regarding the tax collector compensation and the cap that the Board had placed on it, asking if the Board wished to reverse the cap. With the increased assessments in Union Township, the tax collector is doing considerable more work for the same pay with a 1.5% cap. There was discussion if the Board's previous decision can be changed. Mr. Bennett will contact our Solicitor and asked that the minutes be checked.

Mr. Thompson was commended on how nice the old tennis courts look. He was asked about the fire panel replacement as per his report. He stated it was a ground fault error and not repairable.

Mr. Shroul was asked if the students could know at the end of the year who their teacher will be for the fall. Mr. Shroul stated that he was considering a step-up day when each grade of students would meet all of the teachers who would be teaching the next grade. He was also thanked for the smaller size Kindergarten classes.

In the absence of Mrs. Tomcho and Mr. Keefer (who had to leave the meeting previously), it was asked why there were 17 withdrawals to which Mrs. Quickle replied that withdrawals and enrollments are common through the summer. It was also asked if enrollment figures for several years could be made available and show a trend. She said they could be obtained.

Mrs. Mulson was asked about the service animal to which she replied it's a Golden Retriever. She was also asked about those who have allergies to dogs to which she replied that their policy is followed exactly and also, the dog can wear a t-shirt to reduce the distribution of pet dander. She was also asked about required state dental exams which Mrs. Mulson stated are for students in Kindergarten, grades 3, 5, 8 and 11 and that the mobile Dentist will examine and treat all students who do not have insurance coverage. It was mentioned that deer ticks are on the rise and to check pets and children.

Mrs. Quickle stated there were three Comprehensive Plan packets on the tables for the Board to view which have to be on display for 28-30 days prior to approval which she anticipates at the October 11 meeting. [See Supplementals enclosed in the Minutes Book] She was asked if the money for the greenhouse was still available to which she replied "some." Monsanto moved their contribution forward. Some was used to pay the architect fees (\$6000) which leaves \$14,000. It was requested that the greenhouse be added to the renovation plans. Finally, Mrs. Quickle reported that the Active Shooter Drill which was held on Aug. 24, was successful with several scenarios taking place. Some changes will be made to our safety plan and will be discussed with the Board during Executive Session.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee A Report

Mrs. Lewis had nothing to report.

Committee B Report

Mr. Blakeslee presented the second reading of the new Federal Programs Policy “Procurement - #3902. There were no questions or discussion.

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit Board of Directors

Mr. Trauner reported that he was unable to attend the last meeting.

Erie County Technical School Joint Operating Committee

Mr. Fox reported that a new culinary arts instructor has been hired. He is happy that Dr. Walker is interested in visiting area School Boards.

Other Business

PSBA Slate of Candidates

Mr. Trauner asked the Board’s wishes in voting or abstaining on the PSBA Slate of Candidates. Following discussion, it was decided this Board will abstain.

Mr. Trauner stated he was happy to be asked to greet the staff at the August In-service which seemed to be appreciated.

Concerning the number of athletic booster clubs the District has, it was suggested that we go back to one Booster Club that will support all athletics.

It was asked if Wi-Fi is okay for Chromebook usage which was replied to affirmatively.

The September 13 draft agenda was reviewed and the Finance motion regarding the exoneration for penalties and interest for two Bloomfield Township parcels questioned. The person was charge incorrectly and no tax was owed.

Executive Session

Mr. Trauner reminded the Board that an Executive Session for the purpose of School Safety, Contract and Personnel discussion would follow adjournment.

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Adjournment

Mr. Blakeslee moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dr. Miller.

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.

Mr. Trauner declared the meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Sill
School Board Secretary