

Union Area School District
New Castle, Pennsylvania
Public Board Meeting Minutes
Union Area Board of School Directors
January 20, 2021

The Union Area Board of School Directors met in public session on January 20, 2021 in the Middle/High School Board Auditorium and Google Meets for a Regular Board Meeting at 7:00 PM. The following persons were in attendance:

Board Members:

Dr. Michael Hink
Mr. John Pacella
Ms. Debra Allebach
Mr. John Bertolino
Mr. Arin Biondi
Ms. Roxanne Exposito
Mr. Robert Mrozek
Mr. John Pacella
Ms. Elizabeth A. Sylvester

Administrators:

Dr. Michael Ross, Superintendent
Dr. Scott, O'Donnell, Curriculum Director
Ms. Linda O'Neill, Elementary Principal

Ms. Samantha Lavery, Business Mgr. /Board Sec.

Media: N/A

Solicitor: Lou Perrotta, Esq.

Public: See Attached

Board Members Not Present:

Call to Order

Dr. Hink called the meeting to order at 7:25 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Hink requested those in attendance to join in the salute to the flag at 7:25 P.M.

Executive Session Announcement

Dr. Hink announced that the Union Area School Board met in executive session at 6:30 PM to discuss personnel for the purpose of hiring, legal language for contracts, and negotiations. Executive Session ended at 7:20 PM.

Public Comment on Agenda Items (7:26 PM)

Dr. Hink called for public comment. There was none.

Informational Items (7:27 PM)

A. Nutrition Inc. Update on RFP

Ms. Lavery updated the Board on the extension for another year on the RFP process due to COVID19 and how it would benefit the District financially if they decided to move in that direction.

B. School Board Appreciation Month

Dr. Ross thanked the Board for their volunteer services and commitment to the District. Mrs. O'Neill presented gifts on behalf of the Union Area Education Association.

C. COVID -19 & Health & Safety Plan

Dr. Ross updated the Board on the newest guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the guidelines on Shut Downs in schools. Dr. Ross further passes along the guidance from the American Pediatrics and Pennsylvania Department of Education on re-opening of Elementary Schools with data and procedures in place.

D. ESSER Grant Update

Dr. Ross updated the Board on the new proposed allocation for the ESSER Funds II and how the District is preparing to utilize the money to offset some of the COVID-19 expenses in place.

Operations

Exposito moved to approve the following consent agenda items as listed:

- A. Approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on December 2, 2020.
- B. Approve the Financial Report and Treasurer's Report dated November 30, 2020 and December 31, 2020.
- C. Approve the Purchase Order List from November 17, 2020 through January 14, 2021 in the amount of \$28,401.72.
- D. Approve the checklist from November 19, 2020, to January 20, 2021 in the amount of \$789,852.11.
- E. Approve the December 31, 2020 High School Financials Reports for the Athletic Fund, Letterman's Fund, and Student Activities as presented.
- F. Approve the Cafeteria Invoices dated December 4, 2020 and January 7, 2020 in the amount of \$27,615.60 and \$18,767.08 respectively.

Mrozek seconded (9 yes). The motion carried.

Friend moved to approve the 2021 Board Committees as attached. Exposito seconded (9 yes). The motion carried.

Allebach moved to approve the Act 1 Resolution 2021-00 whereas the Union Area School District will not exceed the tax increase above the set index of 4.4% for the 2021-2022 school year. Mrozek seconded (9 yes). The motion carried.

Sylvester moved to approve the LERTA Application for Mr. & Mrs. Michael Jevcak located at 1110 Miller Road, New Castle, PA 16101 for a new residential construction home assessment of \$144,700. Exposito seconded (8 yes 1 Abstain – Hink (Daughter)). The motion carried.

Allebach moved to approve the Emergency Instructional Time Template as presented. Exposito seconded (9 yes). The motion carried.

Mrozek moved to revise the 2020-2021 return to school policy by changing the dates to in person learning for k-5 on February 1, 2021 and in-person learning for grades 6-12 to return on February 1, 2021. Exposito seconded (6 yes 3 No – Pacella, Friend, Sylvester). The motion carried.

Dr. Hink verifies that virtual instruction is still an option for parents.

Exposito moved to approve the Lawrence County Tax Assessment Exonerations as presented. Sylvester seconded (9 yes). The motion carried.

Personnel

Allebach moved to accept the resignation of Mr. Randall DeJohn from Junior High Girls Softball effective January 20, 2021. Mrozek seconded (9 yes). The motion carried.

Biondi moved to accept the resignation of Ms. Jayna Johnston from Junior High Girls Softball effective January 20, 2021. Sylvester seconded (9 yes). The motion carried.

Friend moved to approve Ms. Erica Latess as the Junior High Girls Softball Coach, effective January 20, 2021 and paid a stipend of \$2,325 pending receipt of all proper paperwork. Allebach seconded (9 yes). The motion carried.

Allebach moved to approve Mr. Kevin Benedict as the Junior High Girls Softball Coach, effective January 20, 2021 and paid a stipend of \$2,325 pending receipt of all proper paperwork. Friend seconded (9 yes). The motion carried.

Addenda

7:51 PM Dr. Hink called for public comment on the Addenda. There was none

Exposito moved to approve the time-off without pay to Mrs. Sharlene Shiderly for a two week period as per attached request. Biondi seconded (9 yes). The motion carried.

New Business (7:52 PM)

Dr. Hink calls for new business at 7:52 PM.

There was no comments from the Board.

Dr. Ross explains the return to school plans and what is needed from the community to keep the schools open.

Adjourn (7: 57 PM)

Allebach moved to adjourn the regular scheduled meeting at 7:57 PM. Biondi seconded (9 yes). The motion carried.

Samantha C. Lavery, Board Secretary