

UPPER PERKIOMEN SCHOOL DISTRICT  
2229 East Buck Road  
Pennsburg PA 18073

December 5, 2016

**CALL TO ORDER BY BOARD SECRETARY**

The Organization meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Upper Perkiomen School District Education Center with the following members attending: Mike W. Elliott, Wilfred E. Pike, Dr. John L. Farris, Joan T. Smith, John L. Gehman, Raeann B. Hofkin, Jonathan A. Warren, Kimberly Baccari, and Dr. Kerry Drake.

**SCHOOL BOARD ORGANIZATION**

Motion by Wilfred E. Pike, seconded by John L. Farris, that **Mike W. Elliott** be elected temporary Chairperson of the December 5, 2016 organization of the Board of School Directors. Motion carried; all voted aye.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Motion by Wilfred E. Pike, seconded by Jonathan A. Warren, that **Dr. John L. Farris be nominated** for the office of **President** of the Upper Perkiomen School Board effective December 5, 2016.

Motion by Dr. Kerry A. Drake, that **John L. Gehman be nominated** for the office of **President** of the Upper Perkiomen School Board effective December 5, 2016. **Mr. Gehman respectfully declined the nomination before the motion could be seconded.**

Motion by Jonathan A. Warren, seconded by Joan T. Smith, that **nominations for President be closed.** Motion carried; all voted aye.

The Chairperson called for a **vote** for **Dr. John L. Farris for President.** ROLL CALL VOTE: Elliott – yes, Pike – yes, Farris – yes, Smith – yes, Gehman – yes, **Hofkin – no**, Warren – yes, Baccari – yes, Drake – yes. Motion passed.

Motion by Joan T. Smith, seconded by Wilfred E. Pike, that **John L. Gehman be nominated** for the office of **Vice President** of the Upper Perkiomen School Board effective December 5, 2016.

Motion by Dr. Kerry A. Drake, seconded by Raeann B. Hofkin, that **Kimberly Baccari, be nominated** for the office of **Vice President** of the Upper Perkiomen School Board effective December 5, 2016.

Motion by Dr. John L. Farris, seconded by Jonathan A. Warren, that nominations for **Vice President be closed.** Motion carried; all voted aye.

The Secretary called for a **vote** for **John L. Gehman for Vice President.** ROLL CALL VOTE: Elliott – yes, Pike – yes, Gehman – yes, Smith – yes, Farris – yes, **Hofkin – no**, Warren – yes, **Baccari – no, Drake – no.** Motion passed.

Motion by John L. Gehman, seconded by Jonathan A. Warren, **that the meeting be adjourned at 7:12 pm.** Motion carried; all voted aye.

**UPPER PERKIOMEN SCHOOL DISTRICT  
2229 East Buck Road  
Pennsburg PA 18073**

**December 5, 2016**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Upper Perkiomen School District was called to order by President Dr. John L. Farris, at 7:14 p.m. in the Upper Perkiomen School District Education Center.

The following Board members attended: Mike W. Elliott, Wilfred E. Pike, Raeann B. Hofkin, Joan T. Smith, Dr. John L. Farris, John L. Gehman, Jonathan A. Warren, Kimberly A. Baccari, and Dr. Kerry A. Drake. Administration in attendance were: Alexis McGloin, EdD, Ashley Kitten, and Sandra M. Kassel. Others in attendance were: Michael Kristofco, Dyan Hipszer, Michael Hofkin, Steven Cunningham, Mark Mancini, James Glackin, Len Matthews, Bob Hansell, Dennis Giansante, Donna Steinhauer, Melanie Cunningham, Jonathan Dale, Charles Foraker, Sean Queeney, Dr. Eve Puhala, Burt Shive, Francis Neilson, Cathy Davidson, Benita Beck, Lucy Kern, and Jim Friedman.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. McGloin talked about how open communication is an important part of building a strong relationship with parents, the district realizes that the closing of school on December 5, 2016 was difficult for members of our school community due to the sparsity of information that could be shared relating to the event. Dr. McGloin went over her announcement and email that was sent out at the end of the day. She explained how the State Police notified the district in the early morning hours of a social media post that threatened to inflict harm upon unspecified students in school. She stated that the Upper Perkiomen School District takes all threats made to the safety of students and staff extremely serious. While the vast majority of school threats involve situations that are not deemed creditable, the closure of school was essential to allow the state and local authorities to conduct a full investigation to ensure the safety of the students and staff. Dr. McGloin stated that everyone needed to work together as a community and asked parents to discuss the event with their children emphasizing the seriousness of the situation and the impact of their on-line interactions to themselves, their friends, their family and their community.

Dr. McGloin stated that a few items were on the agenda relating to the new Middle School Construction Project, if approved the Act 34 Hearing will be held on January 4, 2017 at 6:30 pm. This is a required public hearing and an opportunity to voice concerns.

Dr. McGloin announced that on November 21, 2016 a group of ten students in Fourth and Fifth grades from Marlborough Elementary were selected to go to the Lincoln Financial Center as guests of the National Dairy Council and their work with Fuel Up to Play 60. 58 students entered a contest to be selected based on their work submission which included how to eat healthy, get active and make a difference. The students were chaperoned by Mr. Brittain, Mr. Lippencott and Ms. Plonski. The students met with the Eagles nutritionist and participated in strengthening and conditioning work with an Eagles trainer and met an Eagles player.

**PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION**

A. Board Policy First Readings/Adoptions: (Attachment A)

1. No. 200 – Enrollment of Students
2. No. 201 – Admission of Beginners
3. No. 355, 455 & 555 – Conflict of Interest
4. No. 707 – Use of School Facilities
5. No. 823 – Naloxone

Mrs. Smith reported that these policies have been discussed by the committee. Mrs. Hofkin asked if the Policy 823 could be fast-tracked. Mr. Kristofco, solicitor said that the Board could vote to do

so. Dr. McGloin explained that if the Policy was approved the drug could be made available to the schools.

Motion by Kimberly A. Baccari, seconded by Wilfred E. Pike to **fast-track Policy No. 823-Naloxone**. Motion carried; all voted aye.

### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Michael Kristofco announced that an Executive Session was held on November 29, 2016. The Executive Session topic discussed was a specific employee contract and non-union employee labor group matters. Mr. Kristofco also noted that amendments have been made to the McKinney-Vento act that will require some action both administratively and on the policy front.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Michael Hofkin, Upper Hanover Township and President of Valley Soccer Club. Mr. Hofkin asked if the policy or regulation that restricts the use of the Education Center on Sundays be rescinded. The Valley Soccer Club runs their club on a very slim budget and Mr. Hofkin said that the club provides the portable restroom and the nets that are located in the area that they use. He stated the program has been successful for many years, it is valuable and the use of the facilities have been instrumental in making that so.

Steven Cunningham, Hereford Township, talked about the Facilities Committees meetings and the decision made to build the new Middle School. He has attended many meetings but felt the lack of attendance from the public was due to unawareness. Mr. Cunningham believed there should be a referendum that the public could vote on for building a new Middle School. He also questioned the unavailability of the financial reports.

Len Mathews, Pennsburg, asked how money is set aside to fund the new school.

Mr. Warren addressed the concern explaining the surplus budget and Mr. Mathews asked a few more questions and expressed his thoughts on how taxes would go up for members of the community.

Bob Hansell, Pennsburg, stated that he has a lot to learn but said that he thought he understood that people can get funding directly to go to a private school and that there may not be a need for public schools in the future.

Dennis Giansante, Pennsburg, questioned the Board about the traffic on Montgomery Avenue.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. Facilities Committee – Will Pike

Mr. Pike spoke about two items on the agenda, one is the request for an Alternative and Clean Air Energy Program Grant for \$2,000,000.00 from the Commonwealth and a \$500,000 Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant.

B. Special Education Committee – Dr. Kerry Drake

C. Policy Committee – Joan Smith

D. Board Communication Line – Mike Elliott

Mr. Elliott stated a lot of items have come in on the Board Communication Line and directed the public to go to the FAQ on the website if there are questions about the new construction project.

E. Western Montgomery Career & Technology Center – John Gehman

Mr. Gehman encouraged parents to make use of the Driver Education program that is offered at the Western Center.

F. Montgomery County Intermediate Unit – Dr. Kerry Drake

G. Legislative Liaison – Kimberly Baccari

H. Upper Perkiomen Regional Planning Commission – Kimberly Baccari

Dr. McGloin and the Architects gave a presentation at the Regional Planning Commission for the Borough and Townships about the construction project.

- I. Upper Perkiomen Education Foundation – Mike Elliott

**MINUTES**

Motion by Jonathan A. Warren, seconded by Wilfred E. Pike, to approve the **Regular School Board Meeting Minutes of November 10, 2016** (Attachment B). VOTE: Elliott – yes, Pike – yes, Hofkin – no, Smith – yes, Farris – yes, Gehman – yes, Warren – yes, Baccari – yes, Drake – yes. Motion carried.

**PERSONNEL REPORT**

Motion by Mike W. Elliott, seconded by Raeann B. Hofkin, to approve the **Personnel Report as presented:**

A. **TERMINATION**

1. **SUPPLEMENTAL STAFF**

- a. **Brett M. Kenna**, Music Chorus, Middle School.

B. **APPOINTMENTS**

1. **SUPPORT STAFF**

- a. **Lorraine S. Carawan**, Technology Assistant at the Middle School, effective January 3, 2017, to be hired subject to required employment history review, at \$17.75/hour, per the Agreement for Administrative Support Personnel. Lorraine will be replacing Kevin DeAngeles, who resigned.
- b. **Ashley L. Lord**, Non-Instructional Paraprofessional at Marlborough Elementary School, effective November 28, 2016, to be hired subject to required employment history review, at \$10.00/hour, Step 1, per the Agreement for Part-Time Support Staff. Ashley will be replacing Deborah Benner, who accepted another position with the District.
- c. **Karen M. Reed**, Food Service Staff Member at the Western Montgomery Career & Technical Center, effective November 28, 2016, to be hired subject to required employment history review, at \$9.50/hour, Step 1, per the Agreement for Food Service Staff. Karen will be replacing Patricia Corbin, who accepted another position with the District.
- d. **Deborah L. Wanamaker**, Food Service Staff Member at the High School, effective November 28, 2016, at \$9.50/hour, Step 1, per the Agreement for Food Service Staff. Deborah will be replacing Gail Camperson, who resigned.

C. **SUPPLEMENTAL SALARY POSITIONS** for the 2016-2017 school year:

<b><u>Area</u></b>	<b><u>Position</u></b>	<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Schedule</u></b>	<b><u>Salary</u></b>
Administration	Athletic Trainer	Sharon Schoelkopf	A	Adjustment from \$17,953 to \$20,000
Boys' Basketball	Varsity HS Coach	Jared Krupp	A	\$8,270
Boys' Basketball	Assistant HS Coach	Todd Swenk	A	\$4,960
Boys' Basketball	MS Assistant Coach	David Brownell*	A	\$3,062
Boys' Basketball	MS Assistant Coach	Timothy Mayza	A	\$3,062
Girls' Basketball	Varsity HS Coach	Gregory Swavely	A	\$8,270
Girls' Basketball	Assistant HS Coach	Kathryne Vetter	A	\$4,960
Girls' Basketball	MS Assistant Coach	Jessica Spano*	B	\$2,450

Girls' Basketball	MS Assistant Coach	Valerie Janton*	B	\$2,450
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Swimming	Varsity Coach	Brien Kalnoski	A	\$7,264
Swimming	Assistant Coach	Caitlin Warren	A	\$2,993
Wrestling	Varsity HS Coach	Samuel Walters	A	\$8,270
Wrestling	MS Coach	Vincent Leskusky	A	\$4,137
Wrestling	MS Assistant	David Hartung	A	\$3,062

\* to be hired subject to required employment history review

### C. CHANGE OF STATUS

#### 1. SUPPORT STAFF

- a. **Deborah L. Benner**, Non-Instructional Paraprofessional at Hereford Elementary to Food Service Staff Member at the High School, effective November 28, 2016, at \$9.50/hour. Deborah will be replacing Brenda Mundy, who accepted another position with the District.

### D. LEAVE OF ABSENCE

1. **Barbara Harding**, approve an EXTENSION to her FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE of absence to continue from October 31, 2016, through approximately December 15, 2016.
2. **Diane S. Hipszer**, approve a FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE of absence from January 10, 2017, through approximately January 20, 2017.
3. **John E. Soffa, Jr.**, approve a FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE of absence from November 9, 2016, through approximately December 13, 2016.
4. **Cheryl A. Stotsenburg**, approve a FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE of absence from January 3, 2017, through approximately February 9, 2017.

VOTE: Elliott – yes, Pike – yes, Hofkin – yes, Smith – yes, Farris – yes, Gehman – yes, **Warren – abstain**, Baccari – yes, Drake – yes. Motion carried.

### ACTION ITEMS

- A. Motion by Jonathan A. Warren, seconded by Kimberly A. Baccari, to approve **the 2017 Board of School Directors Meetings and Workshops**. (Attachment C)

Motion by John L. Farris, seconded by Wilfred E. Pike, to **table Action Item A**, to move the dates of the Workshop closer to the Board meeting, except for January's meeting. Motion failed; all opposed.

- Motion by Jonathan A. Warren, seconded by Kimberly A. Baccari, to approve **the 2017 Board of School Directors Meetings and Workshops**. Motion carried; all voted aye.

- B. Motion by Jonathan A. Warren, seconded by Wilfred E. Pike, to approve the **Resolution authorizing an Act 34 Hearing on Wednesday, January 4, 2017**. (Attachment D). VOTE: Elliott – yes, Pike – yes, **Hofkin – no**, Smith – yes, Farris – yes, Gehman – yes, Warren – yes, Baccari – yes, **Drake – no**. Motion carried.

- C. Motion by Jonathan A. Warren, seconded by Mike W. Elliott, to **authorize the District Solicitor to file an appeal from the conditions imposed in the November 18, 2016, Decision and Order of the Board of Supervisors of Upper Hanover Township on the Conditional Use application** of the Upper Perkiomen School District for the new Middle School on Montgomery Avenue. VOTE: Elliott – yes, Pike – yes, **Hofkin – no**, Smith – yes, Farris – yes, Gehman – yes, Warren – yes, Baccari – yes, **Drake – no**. Motion carried.

Motion by Jonathan A. Warren, seconded by Mike W. Elliott, to approve **Action Items D and E:**

- D. Motion to approve the **Resolution authorizing the District to pursue an Alternative and Clean Energy Program Grant for the maximum amount of \$2,000,000.** (Attachment E)
- E. Motion to approve the **Resolution authorizing the District to pursue a Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant up to \$500,000.** (Attachment F)

VOTE: Elliott – yes, Pike – yes, Hofkin – yes, Smith – yes, Farris – yes, Gehman – yes, Warren – yes, Baccari – yes, **Drake – no.** Motion carried.

F. Motion by Jonathan A. Warren, seconded by John L. Gehman, to approve the **Agreement with School Operation Services Group, Inc., (SOS) for substitute custodian staff.** (Attachment G). VOTE: Elliott – yes, Pike – yes, Hofkin – yes, Smith – yes, Farris – yes, Gehman – yes, Warren – yes, **Baccari – no,** Drake – yes. Motion carried.

G. Motion by Jonathan A. Warren, seconded by John L. Gehman, to approve the **Agreement with Cumberland Therapy Services, LLC, for substitute nursing staff.** (Attachment H). Motion carried; all voted aye.

H. Motion by John L. Gehman, seconded by Mike W. Elliott, to approve the **following employment compensation plans:**

1. Administrative Support Staff (Attachment I)
2. Maintenance and Custodial Staff (Attachment J)
3. Confidential Administrative Support Staff (Attachment K)

Motion by Kimberly A. Baccari, seconded by Raeann B. Hofkin, to **table Action Item H.**  
ROLL CALL VOTE: **Elliott – no, Pike – no,** Hofkin – yes, **Smith – no, Farris – no, Gehman – no, Warren – no,** Baccari – yes, **Drake – no.** Motion fails.

Motion by John L. Gehman, seconded by Mike W. Elliott, to approve the **following employment compensation plans:**

1. Administrative Support Staff (Attachment I)
2. Maintenance and Custodial Staff (Attachment J)
3. Confidential Administrative Support Staff (Attachment K)

VOTE: Elliott – yes, Pike – yes, **Hofkin – abstain,** Smith – yes, Farris – yes, Gehman – yes, Warren – yes, **Baccari – abstain,** Drake – yes. Motion carried.

Kimberly Baccari asked for the minutes to reflect that she feels the information given was not accurate at this particular time. Mrs. Hofkin is in agreement.

I. Motion by Mike W. Elliott, seconded by Wilfred E. Pike, to approve:

1. **Dr. John Farris to the WMCTC Joint Operating Committee** for a 3-year term, expiring December, 2019.

Motion carried; all voted aye.

J. Motion to approve the **following High School overnight trips:**

1. High School varsity wrestling team qualifiers to attend the Solanco Mule Classic Tournament December 9-10, 2016, in Quarryville, PA.

2. High School varsity wrestling team qualifiers to attend the Flo-X Calibur Tournament December 16-17, 2016, in Kingston, PA.
3. High School varsity wrestling team qualifiers to attend the Holiday Hammer Classic Tournament December 28-29, 2016, in Abingdon, VA.

Motion carried; all voted aye.

Motion by John L. Farris, seconded by Jonathan A. Warren, to approve **Policy No. 823-Naloxone**. Motion carried; all voted aye.

### **BUSINESS REPORTS**

Motion by Jonathan A. Warren, seconded by Raeann B. Hofkin, to approve the **payment of bills, in the amount of \$687,459.29 from the General Fund**. Motion carried; all voted aye.

Motion by Jonathan A. Warren, seconded by Kimberly A. Baccari, to approve **the payment of bills in the amount of \$396,183.58 from the Capital Projects Fund**. Motion carried; all voted aye.

Motion by Jonathan A. Warren, seconded by Mike W. Elliott, to approve **the Per Capita Exonerations**. Motion carried; all voted aye.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

James Glackin, Marlborough Township. Mr. Glackin thanked Dr. McGloin for the day's events. Mr. Glackin said he is a 20 year teacher and has never taught in a building less than 75 years old, he also felt that teachers matter not the buildings. His opinion was that things were rushed and hopes everyone wants what is right for the kids, but that is not necessarily a new school.

Mark Mancini, Hereford Township, asked about was going to happen with the existing Middle School. Mr. Mancini asked what a school lunch cost and stated that 30% of students receive free/reduced lunch. He believed that many cannot afford a new school.

Donna Steinhauer, East Greenville, said that she ran a free clothing ministry that was open to distribute free clothing once a month. She also established a baking ministries for residents. She stated there is a need for that in this community.

Melanie Cunningham, Upper Hanover Township and Business owner in East Greenville. Mrs. Cunningham wanted to clarify why when residents came to a Workshop meeting they were unable to speak. Mr. Gehman explained that at Workshop meetings comments are only for agenda items, not open public comments. Mrs. Cunningham talked about how she has done extensive research about the construction project by talking to the STEB Board, many professionals and attending meetings and also talking to the public. Mrs. Cunningham talked about the STEB ratio and seniors who have rising costs. She also asked about the date of the Act 34 Hearing.

Jonathan Dale, Hereford Township, talked about his understanding of the STEB ratio and the difference of the two counties. Mr. Dale expressed the word courage to the Board, saying it takes a lot of courage to make big decisions. It had to be difficult to decide to build Marlborough Elementary and the High School. Mr. Dale addressed the word numbers to the public saying that they need to be understood. He also spoke on the aspects of inflation.

Larry Taglieber, Upper Hanover Township spoke about how people living on social security and the seniors cannot afford to pay more taxes on their properties.

Len Mathews, Pennsburg, felt he was already paying too much in taxes and people should have a vote.

Dennis Giansante, Pennsburg. Mr. Giansante lives on Montgomery Ave. and 11<sup>th</sup> Street. He would like to think that people would change their minds. He felt the traffic was already bad and would get much worse.

Charles Foraker, Pennsburg asked what the projected enrollment was and wondered if that was worth building the new school. He thought it would be more advantageous to renovate what we have.

Sean Queeney, Pennsburg on Montgomery Avenue, appreciated the Board listening to everyone. Mr. Queeney said that he firmly supports the building of a new Middle School, he said he was a very satisfied customer of the school district and believed facilities do matter. He felt that safety and security are a must.

Steve Cunningham, Hereford Township, talked about the Bond Issue, inflation and maintenance on buildings.

Dr. Eve Puhala, Upper Hanover Township, teaches the GED program at Open Link. Dr. Puhala spoke about the drop-out rates and stated she would like to see more money spent on academics instead of a new building.

Burt Shive, Marlborough Township, asked the Board to reconsider their decision. Mr. Shive asked if PlanCon money was received.

Francis Neilson, Pennsburg, did not know this was an action that was voted on already. Applauded the Board for putting so much time and effort into it but would still like them to consider the taxes.

Mark Mancini, Hereford Township, asked if his question of, how much additional money will be needed to repair the existing Middle School, could be answered in the FAQ's section.

Cathy Davidson, Pennsburg, asked for clarification about Action Item C, the motion to appeal for the conditional use to Upper Hanover.

Len Mathews, Pennsburg, felt it was not a good location for the building due to water issues.

Benita Beck, Red Hill, said the cost of the school was going to have a strong impact on seniors and young families. She hoped that everyone on the Board has listened to everyone's questions and concerns.

Lucy Kern, East Greenville, spoke about the dedication of the Smith's to education and the School Board. She mentioned the progress of education from one room schoolhouses and the commotion when building the High School and felt there was a need for a new building and the community should be proud to build it.

President John L. Farris called for a 15 minute recess at 9:30 pm.

The meeting reconvened at 9:45 pm.

Jim Friedman, Upper Hanover Township, stated he is concerned about the traffic on Montgomery Avenue. He had videotaped several hours of activity on Montgomery Avenue. Mr. Friedman said that he witnessed children walking in the street and reckless driving. He hoped that the district was taking into consideration the safety of the students.

### **BOARD COMMENTS**

Mike Elliott thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He said it is important to have good, open, honest communication about things. He wanted the public to be educated as to why decisions were made. Mr. Elliott talked about the new exciting things that are happening in the district.

Jonathan Warren asked administration if the presentation that was provided to the Board at a public meeting that showed all the construction options was posted on the school district website. Mr. Warren also thanked the administration and staff on how the day's event was handled.

Kimberly A. Baccari talked about the ACE funding and the multi-modal grant. Ms. Baccari stated that nothing is ever confirmed but you can try and thanked the boroughs for their support in that effort.

John Farris talked about four long term school employees that retired last month and who spoke at the Board meeting stating how Upper Perkiomen was a fine institution and provided good quality education. The employees all felt that everyone cared for each other and felt that the district was a family. Dr. Farris felt that there were many capable people in the district and hopes that the Board can continue to make everyone feel the same way about the district.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by John L. Gehman, seconded by Joan T. Smith, that **the meeting be adjourned at 10:00 p.m.** Motion carried; all voted aye.

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Sandra M. Kassel, Board Secretary