

**UPPER PERKIOMEN SCHOOL DISTRICT
2229 E. BUCK ROAD
PENNSBURG, PA 18073**

**BOARD WORKSHOP
September 28, 2017**

CALL TO ORDER

The Board Workshop of the Board of School Directors of the Upper Perkiomen School District was held in the Upper Perkiomen School District Education Center with the following people attending: Mike W. Elliott (6:45), Raeann B. Hofkin (6:40), Wilfred E. Pike, Joan T. Smith, Dr. John L. Farris, John L. Gehman, Jonathan A. Warren, Kimberly A. Baccari, and Dr. Kerry A. Drake. Others in attendance were: Alexis McGloin, EdD., Andrea Farina, EdD., Sandra M. Kassel, Ashley Kitten, Dyan Hipszer, Ken Roos, Phil Detwiler, and Micki Shive.

ACTION ITEMS

- A. Motion by Joan T. Smith, seconded by Jonathan A. Warren, to approve **the August 24, 2017, Board Workshop Minutes** (Attachment A). VOTE: Elliott – absent, Hofkin – absent, Pike – yes, Smith – yes, Farris – yes, Gehman – yes, Warren – yes, Baccari – yes, Drake – yes. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION

1. **CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION**

a. **Proposed UPTV Club – Dave Thomas**

Dr. Carpenter and Mr. Thomas spoke about the proposal of establishing the UPTV Club, which will allow more students to have access to the studio.

b. **Technology State of the Union – Bryan Ruzenski**

Bryan Ruzenski updated the board and public on the technology advancements that have been made throughout the district. He talked about the improvements involving network and hardware, systems and integrations, and instructional technology. Mr. Ruzenski explained that the technology improvements will result in the enhancement of student achievement.

c. **Curriculum Update – Dr. Andrea Farina**

Dr. Andrea Farina and Allison Stephens presented an update on how curriculum changes have translated to success in student learning. They talked about systems changes, Every Day Math, FLITE School and the Personalized Learning Program. Videos of students in math classes were shared that showed how the students are working together to solve problems. Dr. Farina and Mrs. Stephens talked about the committees they have formed which meet and discuss ongoing progress.

d. **Graduation Rate – High School Team**

Dr. Andrea Farina, Dr. Robert Carpenter, Art Vigilante and Todd Amsler presented the graduation rate data. Dr. Farina reported that the 2015-16 rate was 86.64%, she explained that 2016-17 is a projected number and that rate is to be 93.7%. Dr. Carpenter said Every Student Counts and discussed strategies and supports to ensure all students graduate. Mr. Vigilante explained the process of identifying students at risk and the steps the high school takes to prevent drop-outs. Mr. Amsler spoke about the many programs and supports that build a structure for responsive academic support.

Dr. Farris called for a five minute break at 8:35 pm.

The meeting reconvened at 8:40 pm.

2. PERSONNEL

a. Part-Time Upper Perkiomen Education Foundation/Public Relations Person

Dr. Alexis McGloin reminded the board that these positions will be on the October agenda.

b. Exit Survey Data Analysis – Ashley Kitten

Ashley Kitten explained the employee exit process and the methods by which employee receive the exit survey. She reported that she had eleven responses out of the forty that were sent out in the past year. She reported results from the questions included on the survey.

3. POLICY COMMITTEE

a. Board Communication Line

This agenda item was added at the request of Dr. Farris. He asked for it to be temporarily disabled due to questions by several board and community members about a confidentiality breach. The board discussed their feelings on the communication line and Ken Roos responded to questions and comments. Mr. Roos gave the board options; change the language of the current policy or pass a motion to make a statement that the line is confidential. Mr. Roos added that there would be no way to enforce the latter statement. Will Pike and Raeann Hofkin read written statements about the issue.

After further discussion, the board decided they would like to keep the communication line open and that there should be no expectation of confidentiality.

Motion by Mike W. Elliott, seconded by Wilfred E. Pike, to **reactivate the Communication Line and add language saying “please understand that any posting you make to this communication line could be made public”**. ROLL CALL VOTE: Elliott – yes, Hofkin – yes, Pike – yes, **Smith – no**, Farris – yes, Gehman – absent, Warren – yes, Baccari – yes, Drake – yes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Dr. John Farris read a statement regarding public comments.

Phil Detwiler, Eighth Grade Middle School Teacher, expressed that he felt if the communication line had an expectation of no confidentiality then no one will use it.

Micki Shive, Marlborough Township, said she had used the communication line several times and had never assumed confidentiality.

Motion by Joan T. Smith, seconded by Jonathan A. Warren, to **adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m.** Motion carried; all voted aye.