

UPPER PERKIOMEN SCHOOL DISTRICT
2229 East Buck Road
Pennsburg PA 18073

SPECIAL MEETING
July 28, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Upper Perkiomen School District was called to order by President Kerry Drake, at 7:01 p.m. as a virtual on-line meeting.

The following Board members virtually attended: Peg Pennepacker, Dr. Kerry A. Drake, Melanie R. Cunningham, Keith McCarrick, Raeann B. Hofkin, Mike W. Elliott, Judy Maginnis, Dana E. Hipszer, and Stephen L. Cunningham. Administration in virtual attendance were: Allyn J. Roche, EdD., Andrea Farina, EdD., Sandra M. Kassel, and Georgiann Fisher. Others in virtual attendance were: David Conn, Dyan Hipszer, Kimberly Bast, Doug Kenwood, Genevieve Giampa, Sean Queeney, Jennifer Hartzel, Justine Musselman, Peter Wurst, Anthony Stauffer, Jennifer Alderfer, Petra Marx, Melissa Lattanze, Allison Cutillo, Jamie Iero, Rebecca Werkheiser, Jessica Kuntz, Dawn Sites, Kimberly Moyer, Celine Nace, Mary Cannon, Barry Seeney, Jen Moran, Tatiana Galota, Christine Schmoyer, Cookie McGowan, and Tami Carpenter.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ACTION ITEMS

Genevieve Giampa, Marlborough Township, asked what the procedure would be if a teacher or student tested positive.

Sean Queeney, Red Hill, had concerns of schools opening with so many unknowns.

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION

A. Update on 2020-21 UPSD School Reopening Plans - Dr. Allyn Roche, Dr. Andrea Farina and Mrs. Kim Bast

Dr. Roche talked about new guidelines constantly changing and have changed significantly since the July 13th meeting and therefore he could not recommend the same reopening model that was presented at that meeting. Dr. Farina shared the processes that would be in place in the schools and quarantine procedures if necessary. Kim Bast explained the Online Learning and virtual instruction.

Board members had many questions and comments. Dr. Drake asked that based on what was presented, what was the administration's recommendation for the reopening of schools. Dr. Roche replied that the administration's recommendation was to be a full virtual program until November 20, 2020.

B. ACTION ITEMS

- i. Motion by Melanie R. Cunningham, seconded by Keith McCarrick, to adopt the Upper Perkiomen School District's Reopening Model for the 2020-21 school year. Administration recommends beginning the 2020-21 school year as a full virtual instructional model until at least Friday, November 20, 2020. Motion carried; all voted aye.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NEW AGENDA MOTION

Jennifer Hartzel, East Greenville, asked about transportation and clarifications for children with special needs.

Justine Musselman, Red Hill, asked about special needs children and to consider to alter IEP's.

Peter Wurst, Upper Hanover Township, concerned about online learning and the student's progress.

Anthony Stauffer, Green Lane, asked if the situation got better could the schools reopen before November.

Jennifer Alderfer, Marlborough Township, had concerns for working families.

Petra Marx, High School teacher, supported the virtual program because of safety reasons.

Melissa Lattanze, Red Hill, asked if the online learning will be different now than in the spring,

Allison Cutillo, Upper Hanover Township, asked about options to choose and preferred hybrid.

Jamie Iero, Red Hill, said she was disappointed parents did not have more of a decision.

Rebecca Werkheiser, Red Hill, had concerns about her incoming Kindergarten student.

Jessica Kuntz, Red Hill, had concerns about her incoming Kindergarten student.

Dawn Sites, asked about students with IEP's and how virtual will affect that.

Kimberly Moyer, Pennsburg, talked about the seniors having challenges and needing extra guidance.

Celine Nace, was hoping for a hybrid model for parents of special needs children and working parents.

Mary Cannon, Hereford, asked if face shields and masks would need to be worn, and about the fever policy.

Barry Seeney, Marlborough Township, asked for the experts to modify the buildings for safety.

Motion by Melanie R. Cunningham, seconded by Keith McCarrick, to adopt the Upper Perkiomen School District's Reopening Model for the 2020-21 school year. Administration recommends beginning the 2020-21 school year as a full virtual instructional model until at least Friday, November 20, 2020. ROLL CALL VOTE: M. Cunningham – yes, **S. Cunningham – no**, Elliott – yes, Hipszer – yes, Hofkin – yes, Maginnis – yes, McCarrick – yes, Pennepacker – yes, Drake – yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mike W. Elliott, seconded by Stephen L. Cunningham, to approve **Action Items ii and iii:**

- ii. Motion to approve a **custodial staffing agreement with School Operation Services Group Inc.** of Phoenixville, PA. School Operation Services Group will provide trained and qualified custodians as requested by the district at a rate of \$22.63 per hour. It is anticipated that approximately seven (7) temporary, full time custodians will be required for the fall to assist district custodians with the required COVID-19 sanitizing efforts.
- iii. Motion to approve the **execution of an engagement letter with Element Environmental Solutions** of Adamstown, PA to provide Certified Industrial Hygienist services at an hourly rate of \$110 per hour plus mileage reimbursement. Element Environmental Solutions will provide indoor environmental quality consultation for COVID-19 health concerns, review of the district's Health and Safety Plan, consultation specific to the use of sanitizing chemicals, and custodial training.

Motion carried; all voted aye.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jenn Moran, Pennsburg, wanted to know if children would be switching around classrooms.

Tatiana Galoto, Upper Hanover Township, thanked everyone for their hard work and understands this is a difficult choice.

Christine Schmoyer, Pennsburg, thanked everyone for their time and effort and asked if there would be an opportunity for students for tutoring.

Cookie McGowan, East Greenville, appreciated the decision being made, it made her decision making process easier.

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Tami Carpenter, Upper Hanover Township, asked what would be the deciding factor in November to return to face to face instruction.

BOARD COMMENTS

Raeann Hofkin, wanted to say a prayer for the nation and leaders.

Solicitor, David Conn, stated that although this was allowed it is not an expression of the whole board.

Mike Elliott, appreciated all the hard work and great questions and is hoping that everyone will be able to work together through this situation.

Kerry Drake stated that he received news of a parent in the district passing away and held a moment for silence for her.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Kerry A. Drake, seconded by Stephen L. Cunningham, that **the meeting be adjourned at 9:54 p.m.** Motion carried; all voted aye.

Sandra M. Kassel, Board Secretary