

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

**April 9, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Upper Perkiomen School District was called to order by President Raeann B. Hofkin, at 7:00 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: Kyle Somers, Dyan Hipszer, Michael Milkowich, Mary Cannon, Rebecca Hinderliter, Patrick Suter, and Jennifer Hartzel.

Motion by Melanie R. Cunningham, seconded by Keith McCarrick, to approve **the suspension of Board Policy 006.1 with specific regard to the limitation on the number of Board members participating in a meeting electronically and the requirements of having a majority of the Board physically present at a meeting location**, having Board members provide notice of their intent to participate remotely and allowing remote participation for only those reasons set forth in the policy. Motion carried; all voted aye.

**BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Hofkin asked everyone to please be patient and understand that this is a difficult time for everyone. She understands how everyone had to quickly shift to online learning and it is not easy for parents and teachers. She shared that Mr. Thomas sent out a UPN news report that showed the Principals giving advice to help out in this situation. Mrs. Hofkin said how they reported that this was a good time to learn a new hobby or to get in shape.

President Hofkin addressed the community members and let them know that she understands this not easy and the Board and the district are here for them to help adapt and adjust.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Roche provided an update on the closure of all schools and how it impacts all of us in a variety of ways. He said he will send an update on Friday addressing the closures of schools until the end of the year but will not have all the answers right away. Dr. Roche talked about the collaboration and teamwork of staff to help students and families in many areas. Dr. Roche talked about the Grab and Go Meal Program and thanked Ms. Germinario and the Food Service Team, Mr. McFadden, Mr. Weller and many other volunteers who have continued to support this program. Dr. Roche thanked the PTFS groups, faculty and support staff at Hereford and Marlborough and private donors who have supported this program. Dr. Roche also thanked Open Link for continued support in helping families at this time. He announced that there were five more pickup days in April.

Dr. Roche said that student grades and the overall impact of at home learning has been a common topic with many questions being asked. He explained some of the decisions that have been made regarding grading for the elementary and secondary levels.

Dr. Roche discussed the school calendar. He said the district will honor the school calendar that was passed for the 2019-2020 school year. At this time the last day of school will be June 12, 2020.

Dr. Roche announced that the Graduation Ceremony has been another question. He said the district is committed to honoring our seniors and their families and continues to hold out hope that a traditional face-to face ceremony can be accomplished in some way. He said they are unable to make any decisions about that at this time, and asked everyone to be patient while they hope to make this a special graduation for the Class of 2020 who have not had the smoothest school year to date.

Dr. Roche said that the PIAA announced that all Winter Championships and the entire Spring Sports season have been cancelled. Dr. Roche went on to say there have been so many disappointments and losses for students with the closure and hopes people can come up with ideas on how to recreate these experiences virtually or in some other way.

Dr. Roche announced that in Friday's update there will be a Survey Link for all families to complete about their experience to date with at home learning. The link will be open from Friday until April 15<sup>th</sup> at noon. The results from this survey will allow the district to make necessary adjustments to the at home learning experience.

Dr. Roche said that he knows he speaks for the entire community that everyone is disappointed in the announcement that schools will be closed until the end of the year but knows it is necessary to keep everybody safe and healthy. He asked everyone to do their part in staying home and reminded everyone that all school fields and playgrounds are also closed. Dr. Roche asked everyone to stay positive and to continue to communicate with the district that we can continue to show the true spirit of collaboration.

### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT/SUNSHINE ACT ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Somers announced that virtual Executive Sessions were held on March 26, 2020 at 7:00 pm. and on April 3, 2020 at 3:00 pm. for the purpose of discussing personnel matters and to receive legal guidance and information but not deliberate on.

Mr. Somers gave a legal update about the laws that have been passed to address the problems that have been created from the Coronavirus such as the CARES Act and Act 13 Of 2020 which is a state law passed by Pennsylvania. Most notably Act 13 of 2020 eliminated the 180 school day requirement but has required schools to make efforts to engage in the continuity of learning by having online education available. Mr. Somers said that his office has been staying on top of all new information as it becomes available and have been in close communication with the Board and Administration to ensure they are applying all laws appropriately within the district.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion by Stephen L. Cunningham, seconded by Mike W. Elliott, to approve **the agenda**.  
Motion carried; all voted aye.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ACTION ITEMS**

None

### **MINUTES**

A. Motion by Stephen L. Cunningham, seconded by Keith Mc Carrick, to approve the **Regular School Board Meeting Minutes of March 12, 2020**. Motion carried; all voted aye.

### **NEW BUSINESS - PERSONNEL REPORT**

#### **A. PERSONNEL REPORT**

Motion by Stephen L. Cunningham, seconded by Melanie R. Cunningham, to approve the **Personnel Report as presented:**

##### **1. LEAVES OF ABSENCE**

###### **a. Professional Staff**

- i) Kiersten Hildebrand - approved Maternity Leave expected to begin on August 25, 2020 and continue for 6-8 weeks, unpaid Family and Medical Leave, and one week extension returning November 30, 2020.
- ii) Nancy Haff- approved Family and Medical Leave beginning April 9, 2020 and continuing for up to twelve weeks.

**b. Support Staff**

- i) Gisele McCabe – approved intermittent Family and Medical Leave (second certification) beginning on 3/12/2020.

Motion carried; all voted aye.

**B. ACTION ITEMS**

1. Motion by Keith McCarrick, seconded by Judy Maginnis to **extend, until April 2022, the due date for repayment under the Loan Agreement of May 2018 between the District and the Upper Perkiomen Education Foundation.** Motion carried; all voted aye.
2. Motion by Stephen L. Cunningham, seconded by Judy Maginnis, to approve the **Amendment to the Contract for Transportation of School Students between the District and Coventry Transportation, Inc.** VOTE: Pennepacker – yes, Drake – yes, M. Cunningham – yes, McCarrick – yes, **Hofkin – no**, Elliott – yes, Maginnis – yes, Hipszer – yes, S. Cunningham – yes. Motion carried.

**BUSINESS REPORTS**

Motion by Stephen L. Cunningham, seconded by Keith McCarrick, to approve the **payment of bills, in the amount of \$1,069,886.28 from the General Fund.** Motion carried; all voted aye.

Motion by Stephen L. Cunningham, seconded by Judy Maginnis, to approve the payment of bills **in the amount of \$37,937.20 from the Capital Projects & Capital Reserve Accounts.** Motion carried; all voted aye.

**NEW FOLLOW UP ITEMS**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Michael Milkowich, Senior Class Treasurer, asked if there were going to be any type of plans for prom and all of the other end of the year events.

Mary Cannon, Hereford Township, asked if there will be a time that students can go into the schools to retrieve personal items.

Rebecca Hinderliter, Upper Hanover Township, wanted to know what type of grading will be used with the at home learning will it be traditional or pass/fail.

Patrick Suter, Pennsburg, formally asked to meet with Board members to discuss parental right issues.

Jennifer Hartzel, East Greenville, thanked the teachers and staff, but had some concerns about the amount of work being assigned to the students, especially for students with learning disabilities.

**BOARD COMMENTS**

Mike Elliott thanked teachers, staff and all of the parents for their patience while everyone is working together to get through this situation.

Keith McCarrick thanked all of the administration, staff and residents while working through time and appreciates everyone coming together.

Judy Maginnis thanked administration and especially parents for their understanding, she said being a parent herself she knows how difficult this situation is. Mrs. Maginnis was happy to see about 100 people attending the meeting virtually.

Melanie Cunningham remind everyone of the virtual Finance and Facility meetings.

Raeann Hofkin pointed out Dr. Roche's new hairstyle.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Stephen L. Cunningham, seconded by Melanie R. Cunningham, that **the meeting be adjourned at 7:43 p.m.** Motion carried; all voted aye.

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Sandra M. Kassel, Board Secretary