

UPPER PERKIOMEN SCHOOL DISTRICT
2229 East Buck Road
Pennsburg PA 18073

September 14, 2021

The regular meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Upper Perkiomen School District was reconvened by President Melanie Cunningham, at 7:02 p.m. as a virtual meeting.

The following Board members attended: Stephen Cunningham, Kerry Drake, Dana Hipszer, Raeann Hofkin (phone-in), Judy Maginnis, Keith McCarrick, Mike Elliott, and Melanie Cunningham. Absent member was: Peg Pennepacker. Administration in attendance were: Allyn Roche, EdD., Andrea Farina, EdD., Daniel Direso, Kimberly Bast, Georgiann Fisher and Jim Roth. Others in attendance were: Kyle Somers, Rayna Nava, Heather Sicher, Nicole Benning, Shannon Pastore, Shawn Robinson, Sarah Saylor, Kim Hickson, Cookie McGowan, Rickie Bowes, Jessica Gallagher, Vicki Lightcap, Laura Bidwell, Geoff Wilson, Hope Manion, Sarah Rau, Jennifer Hartzell, Jayana Eppler, Casey West, Mary Cannon, Jennifer Dibella, Jaqui Rothermel, Jeff Borchelt, Shana Jordan, Jennifer Beltz, Starr Peluso, Cynthia Smith, Stephanie Long, and Maggie Buckwalter.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Cunningham acknowledged that the district had their first snow day and was happy to start off the year in-person and with full day Kindergarten. Mrs. Cunningham thanked the Health and Safety Committee and Administrators for their diligence in working very hard to create sensible metrics to follow to keep the kids in school. Mrs. Cunningham said their hands have been well and truly tied by the Governor and the PA Department of Health's order.

President Cunningham acknowledged that Ms. Pennepacker is not in attendance tonight and Mr. Elliott is in attendance but was not present on Thursday.

President Cunningham said she was disappointed that she was not able to finish the meeting on Thursday night in person. She talked about the social media conversations, and that there was a contingency plan out of concern for the welfare of everyone. Mrs. Cunningham said when asked if the original meeting should be held virtually she said no because if the students are coming to school wearing masks then a live meeting is the least they could do. Mrs. Cunningham stated she had two choices on Thursday evening when things got out of hand, she could either remove community members which she did not want to do or recess the meeting. Mrs. Cunningham explained how other school districts are not following the mask order and cannot understand how those Board members could put themselves and Administrators and possibly teachers at financial risk. President Cunningham reported that there is a danger of losing staff and bus drivers who are being accosted and harassed even while in grocery stores and that is unacceptable. Mrs. Cunningham stated that this evening there will be public comments on agenda items, if anyone is wishing to speak they may raise their hand and will then have two minutes to speak, the microphone will be turned off at the two-minute mark and that you may only speak one time.

Mrs. Cunningham ended her report on a positive note by sharing that she attended the football game on Friday night and it was enjoyable to be out on a nice night and that the band was amazing.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Roche shared that on August 24th, the staff was welcomed back in traditional fashion with donuts and coffee provided by the Upper Perkiomen Community Church, and thanked them for their support and generosity. Dr. Roche said that over the first three days the schedule was full of meetings and trainings to get everything ready for the first student day. The in-service days were completed with a lunch being cooked and prepared by the Administrative team for all employees, and then the afternoon convocation program which was in a hybrid format. The convocation recognized employees, received advice from recent retirees and to help celebrate the kick-off of the school year there were performances by the Upper Perkiomen Drum line, Percussion

Ensemble, the Uptones and the high school cheerleaders. Dr. Roche said that he was proud of all staff and their dedication to get the year started.

Dr. Roche talked about using one of the three built-in emergency days due to Hurricane Ida and any calendar adjustments will be made later in the school year depending on the winter weather.

Dr. Roche shared that Meet the Teacher programs will be held virtually on Zoom, September 11th, Patriot Day and that schools recognized the day on September 10th in an age appropriate manner.

Dr. Roche shared that the impact of COVID hit sooner than anticipated, in following guidelines currently there over 100 students in quarantine and teachers are working to support students during that time.

Dr. Roche announced that beginning today the second Tuesday of each month will be and Upper Perk Day, today was the first Upper Perk Day, an Upper Perk Day will be an opportunity chance for students and staff to don their Spirit Wear and wear Blue and Gold and show they are proud to be UPSD. Dr. Roche said that people may have seen the special t-shirts worn today by staff or Board members that were distributed at the beginning of the year. The next Upper Perk Day is October 12th.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT/SUNSHINE ACT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Somers announced that the public comments sections are for resident and taxpayers of the district and the first section is for any matter that is coming before the Board this evening and each person will have two minutes to speak. The second comment period is for any matter that may not have been on the agenda but could come up before the Board in the future. This is not a debate period.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Keith McCarrick, seconded by Judy Maginnis, to approve **the agenda**. Motion carried; all voted aye.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ACTION ITEMS

Rayna Nava, Pennsburg, student at Upper Perkiomen High School wrote a poem based on the past few weeks of school called Hate Has No Home Here.

Heather Sicher, Red Hill

Nicole Benning, Red Hill

Shannon Pastore, Green Lane

Kim Hickson, Green Lane

Rickie Bowes, Pennsburg

Jessica Gallagher, Marlborough Township

Vicki Lightcap, Pennsburg

Laura Bidwell, Pennsburg

Geoff Wilson, Pennsburg

Sarah Rau, Hereford Township

Jennifer Hartzell, East Greenville

Jayana Eppler, Hereford Township

Casey West, Pennsburg

Jennifer DiBella, Pennsburg

Jackie Rothermel, Pennsburg

All commented on their displeasure of having students wear masks and asking for parents to be able to make their own choice, quarantine process, vaccinations and issues their children have with wearing masks.

Shawn Robinson, Red Hill
Sarah Saylor, Red Hill
Cookie McGowan, East Greenville
Hope Manion, Hereford Township

All commented with their support of students wearing masks and following recommendations and said that the focus should be on Harrisburg not the Board.

Mary Cannon, Hereford Township, shared disappointment that last week's meeting was not in-person, people being misinformed, exemptions, and how both sides of the mask wearing issue are scared.

MINUTES

Motion by Keith McCarrick, seconded by Kerry Drake, to approve the **August 12, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes** (Attachment A). Motion carried; all voted aye.

OLD BUSINESS

Crossing Guard Placement & Staffing

Dan Direso said there was a bit of an issue at the beginning of the year when the district was told that three of the guards who were lined up were no longer employed by the contractor and currently the Administration is providing assistance in the morning and afternoon to have a safe environment for the students.

NEW BUSINESS

A. PERSONNEL REPORT

Motion by Kerry Drake, seconded by Keith McCarrick, to approve the **Personnel Report as presented:**

i. RESIGNATIONS

1. **Sam Alba**, High School Biology Teacher, resigned his position with the District, effective 60 days from August 10, 2021.
2. **Molly Storti**, Middle School Special Education Teacher, resigned her position with the District, effective 60 days from August 24, 2021.
3. **Lauren Nyemscek**, Family and Consumer Science Teacher, resigned her position with the District on August 25, 2021, effective immediately without providing the District any prior notice.
4. **Cathy Gaskill**, Food Service Worker, resigned her position with the District on August 27, 2021, effective immediately without providing the District any prior notice.
5. **Amanda Jaeger**, Student Assistance Counselor, resigned her position with the District, effective 60 days from August 30, 2021.
6. **Shannon Crawley**, Gifted Teacher, resigned her position with the District on September 1, 2021, effective immediately without providing the District sixty (60) days' notice as required by Section 1121 of Public School Code.

ii. APPOINTMENTS

1. PROFESSIONAL STAFF

- a. **Dan Heinrichs**, Professional Employee, High School Science Teacher, to be hired subject to review of required employment history and clearances, at Masters +15, Step 2, for the 2021-2022 school year.

2. **SUPPLEMENTAL POSITIONS:**

- a. **EVENT WORKERS** for the 2021-2022 School Year:
 - i. John Brittain
 - b. **SITE MANAGERS** for the 2021-2022 School Year:
 - i. John Brittain
 - ii. Ruth Guenther
 - iii. Kate Detterline
 - c. **WEBMASTERS** for the 2021-2022 School Year:
 - i. Tom Guellich- Hereford
 - d. **EDGENUITY COURSE SUPERVISION, PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES**, for a maximum of 20 hours at \$37.00/hour per Professional Contract.
 - i. Ed Williams – Teacher
 - ii. Christa Paul - Teacher
- *previously approved, additional hours worked

- e. **READY TO LEARN**, Professional Employees for a maximum of 65 hours at \$37.00/hour per Professional Contract.

Kelly Alderfer	Teacher
Marta Capron	Teacher
Rachael Krock	Teacher
Heather Nase	Teacher
Susan Michael	Teacher
Brooke Oliver	Teacher
Monica Walsh	Teacher
Zoey Tarantino	Teacher

*Previously approved, additional hours worked

- f. **READY TO LEARN and POWER UP CAMP**, Paraprofessionals for a maximum of 97 hours at \$13.00/hour.

Lauren Maginnis	Paraprofessional
Jessica Neumann	Paraprofessional
Elias Peluso	Paraprofessional

g. **SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACTS:**

<u>Area</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Schedule</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Soccer	MS Girls Soccer Asst. Coach	Kate Detterline	B	\$1870.00

iii. **LEAVES OF ABSENCE**

1. **Shelby Bennett**, approved Child-Rearing Leave, expected to commence on November 11, 2021, and continue for 8 weeks, Family and Medical Leave to continue until February 10, 2022, Uncompensated Leave until the end of the 2021-2022 school year.
2. **Gloria Hendricks**, approved Family and Medical Leave beginning on November 23, 2021, and continuing until approximately December 6, 2021.

iv. **OTHER**

1. **GRANT TENURE STATUS** to the following Temporary Professional Employees, effective for the 2021-2022 school year:
 - a. Luke Pinto
 - b. Shelby Bennett
 - c. Gloria Hendricks
 - d. Christina Kriebel

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Motion by Judy Maginnis, seconded by Melanie Cunningham, to approve the **payment of bills, in the amount of \$1,074,028.62 from the General Fund.** Motion carried; all voted aye.

Motion by Keith McCarrick, seconded by Melanie Cunningham, to approve the **payment of bills, in the amount of \$498,435.20 from the Capital Funds.** Motion carried; all voted aye.

ACTION ITEMS

Motion by Keith McCarrick, seconded by Raeann Hofkin, to approve **Action Items A and B:**

- A. Special Education Services:
 - i. Motion to approve **Agreement with The Camphill School for the 2021-2022 school year** for student #272747 for 1:1 Aide care in the amount of \$40,320, Speech therapy at a cost of \$102/hour and OT and PT for \$75/hour.
 - ii. Motion to approve **Agreement with The Camphill School for the 2021-2022 school year** for student #257147 for 1:1 Aide care in the amount of \$40,320, Speech therapy, Occupational therapy and Physical therapy at a cost of \$102/hour for individual service and \$75/hour for group Physical therapy.
- B. Motion to approve an **updated agreement with Bucks County Intermediate Unit to provide non-public Title I services for St. Isidore's**, where one of our students is attending, in the amount of \$1,084.00 (Attachment C)

Motion carried; all voted aye.

C. Motion by Keith McCarrick, seconded by Judy Maginnis, to **approve the revised 2021-2022 UPSD Health & Safety Plan.** (Attachment D)

Board members shared their thoughts on the Health and Safety Plan and on how they would be voting. Dr. Roche and Mr. Somers talked about and reviewed the revised Health and Safety Plan highlights, including new numbers from the county, Section 3, Mask Order Exceptions and Modifying Facilities if needed.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Pennepacker – absent, S. Cunningham – absent, Drake – yes, Elliott – yes, Hipszer – yes, **Hofkin – no**, Maginnis – yes, **McCarrick – no**, M. Cunningham – yes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jeff Borchelt, Red Hill
Shana Jordan, Pennsburg
Jennifer Beltz, Marlborough Township
Cynthia Smith, Hereford Township

All had comments about the outcome of the vote and their unhappiness with the Board's decision.

Starr Peluso, Marlborough Township
Stephanie Long, Marlborough Township
Shawn Robinson, Red Hill
Maggie Buckwalter, Upper Hanover Township

All had comments about the outcome of the vote and thanked the Board for their decision.

BOARD COMMENTS

Melanie Cunningham, reminded everyone that being a Board member is a volunteer job even though they are elected by the public. Melanie also reminded everyone that mask or no mask wherever you are on your own time is what you feel you should do to keep your own self safe, but on school district time the district needs to do what they need to do.

Stephen Cunningham, explained that his internet was not working during the time of the vote and apologized for not being there.

Kerry Drake asked if the vote could be amended.

Mr. Somers explained that the vote occurred and is concluded but Mr. Cunningham could indicate what his vote would have been to include in the minutes.

Stephen Cunningham asked to add to the minutes that he would have voted yes to follow the PA. Dept. of Health's order, meaning that the district continues to follow through with wearing masks.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Keith McCarrick, seconded by Stephen Cunningham, that **the meeting be adjourned at 8:53 p.m.** Motion carried; all voted aye.

Daniel C. Direso, Board Secretary