

UPPER PERKIOMEN SCHOOL DISTRICT
2229 East Buck Road
Pennsburg PA 18073

September 8, 2022

The regular meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Upper Perkiomen School District was called to order by President Judith Maginnis, at 7:09 p.m. at the Upper Perkiomen Education Center.

The following Board members attended: Raeann Hofkin, JP Prego, Dana Hipszer, Mike Elliott, Judith Maginnis, Peg Pennepacker, Melanie Cunningham, and Emily McCormick (virtual). Absent member was: Keith McCarrick. Administration in attendance were: Allyn Roche, EdD., Andrea Farina, EdD., Daniel Direso, and Georgiann Fisher. Others in attendance were: Kyle Somers, Jennifer Malone, Christine Siegfried, Amy McPherson, Jodie Sell, Rich Kressly, Dave Pierce, Jennifer Hartzel, and Matt Tomlin.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Maginnis thanked all of the staff and bus drivers for making the first two weeks of school almost normal. Mrs. Maginnis acknowledged that there are hiccups and thanked the parents and students for their patience and understanding. Mrs. Maginnis attended the first football game and got to see the band, cheerleaders and the football team and it was a wonderful evening. Mrs. Maginnis wished everyone a great, successful year.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Roche acknowledged all of the hard work that was done by all staff in order to get the school year started and thanked everyone for their patience. Dr. Roche shared slides with pictures from the First Day Convocation lunch. Dr. Roche said student volunteers helped at the lunch and got to be a part of the celebration, a vendor fair was held with vendor booths from some of the health care benefit groups and the Technology department. Dr. Roche announced that a raffle giveaway was held and Mr. Direso won the coveted prize of lunch with the Superintendent.

Dr. Roche shared a video of the Administrators in their "Top Gun" attire which was the theme for the Administrator's retreat.

Dr. Roche talked about the first day of school and said there were some challenges with transportation and staffing concerns. Jenn Malone spoke about the transportation issues like longer runs than normal and staffing issues. Mrs. Malone asked parents to notify the bus company if their students will not be utilizing district transportation.

Dr. Roche announced that some of the Meet the Teacher and Open House events were held or will be held in the next few weeks.

Dr. Roche gave another update and shared information from Pennsburg Borough on the Route 29 bridge closure.

Dr. Roche announced that a QPR (Question, Persuade and Refer) Training session will be held at the Ed Center on Thursday, September 29, 2022 that is open to the community. September is Suicide Prevention Month. This training is to help recognize signs and to offer help to those who may be in need. Dr. Roche said this training will be offered to all 9th graders on October 12, 2022.

Dr. Roche congratulated Zack Schwartz for being voted as PA's High School Football Player of the Week based upon his performance in the game against Schuylkill Valley on September 2, 2022. Dr. Roche shared a highlight clip of the cheerleaders at the football game.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT/SUNSHINE ACT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Somers announced that the Board met in an Executive Session immediately prior to tonight's meeting for the purpose of discussing a matter of collective bargaining between the District and the Upper Perkiomen Education Association, a matter of personnel involving a professional employee and a matter involving the evaluation of performance of the superintendent and assistant superintendent.

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION

A. Board Policy & Administrative Regulation Revisions/Adoptions/Repeals (First Readings):

- i) Policy No. 309 - Assignment and Transfer (Repeal & Replace)
- ii) Policy No. 319 - Outside Activities (Repeal & Replace)
- iii) Policy No. 320 - Freedom of Speech Non-School Setting (Repeal & Replace)
- iv) Policy No. 321 - Political Activities (Repeal & Replace)
- v) Policy No. 322 - Gifts (Adopt)
- vi) Policy No. 323 - Tobacco/Nicotine (Repeal & Replace)
- vii) Policy No. 324 - Personnel Files (Repeal & Replace)
- viii) Policy No. 325 - Dress and Grooming (Repeal & Replace)

Dr. Farina reported that the Committee is still working through the Personnel policies and all of the ones listed on the agenda have been discussed and many have minor revisions. Mrs. Hofkin had questions about Policy 321.

B. UPMS Schools to Watch Program Presentation

Mrs. Siegfried explained that the National Forum Schools to Watch program strictly focuses on Middle School reform and looks for continuous improvement within the schools and to continue working on those reform initiatives for the School to Watch criteria. Mrs. Siegfried talked about the background of the program and many examples of why the Upper Perkiomen Middle School is a good candidate for this recognition.

Mrs. Siegfried introduced some of the staff that have worked on the applications and each of them explained the work that went into their section. Mrs. McPherson and Mrs. Sell talked about Academic Excellence, Mr. Kressly spoke about Developmental Responsiveness and Social Equity, and Mr. Pierce talked about Organizational Structure and Processes. Mrs. Siegfried showed the STW Timeline of the selections of schools.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ACTION ITEMS

None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Melanie Cunningham, seconded by JP Prego, to approve the **August 11, 2022 Regular School Board Meeting Minutes**. (Attachment A). VOTE: **Hofkin – no**, Prego – yes, Hipszer – yes, Elliott – yes, Maginnis – yes, Pennepacker – yes, Cunningham – yes, McCormick – yes, McCarrick – absent. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

PERSONNEL REPORT

Motion by Melanie Cunningham, seconded by JP Prego, to approve the **Personnel Report as presented**:

A. **RETIREMENTS**

1. **Robin Rosenberger**, submitted her intent to retire from her position with the district effective December 2, 2022.

B. RESIGNATIONS

1. **Gloria Matthews**, Cafeteria/Playground Aide, resigned her position with the district, effective August 22, 2022.

C. APPOINTMENTS

1. SUPPORT STAFF

- a. **Caterina Maez**, Cafeteria Playground Aide, for the district to be hired subject to review of employment history and required clearances at \$11.25/hour, effective date TBD.
- b. **Tori Matrone**, Cafeteria Playground Aide for the district to be hired subject to review of employment history and required clearances at \$11.25/hour, effective date TBD.
- c. **Robert Dowd**, Full-time Custodian for the district to be hired subject to review of employment history and required clearances at \$14.50/hour, effective date TBD.
- d. **Caroline Hilbert**, Cafeteria Playground Aide for the district to be hired subject to review of employment history and required clearances at \$11.25/hour, effective date TBD.
- e. **Sandra McKnight**, Paraprofessional for the district, to be hired subject to review of employment history and required clearances at \$14.50/hour.

2. SUPPLEMENTAL POSITIONS

a. ADVISORS/ COACHES

Area	Position	Name	Schedule	Salary
Volleyball	HS Head Coach	Michael Tirjan	B	\$4674.00
Volleyball	HS Assistant Coach	Taylor Gregory	B	\$3269.00
Water Polo	HS Assistant Coach	Dallas Commons	B	\$1990.00
Cheerleading	MS Assistant Coach	A'Terra Buckson	B	\$680.00

- b. **WEBMASTERS** for the 2022-2023 school year:
 1. Emily Barker - High School
- c. **DETENTION PROCTORS** (Middle School) for the 2022-2023 school year:
 1. Cheryl Stotsenberg
 2. Michelle Stone
 3. Deborah Macioge
 4. James Crognale
 5. Ruth Guenther
 6. Matthew Long

D. LEAVES OF ABSENCE

1. **Nicole Wilson**, approve Maternity/ Family and Medical Leave, expected to commence on October 6, 2022, and continue for 6-8 weeks, Family and Medical Leave to continue through January 10, 202, unpaid extension until March 9, 2023.
2. **Anna Hannon**, approve Family and Medical Leave, expected to commence on October 6, 2022 and continue until approximately November 3, 2022.

Motion carried; all voted aye.

ACTION ITEMS

- A. Motion by Mike Elliott, seconded by JP Prego, to approve **Special Education Services:**
1. Motion to approve **Agreements for tuition and 1:1 services with The Pathway School** for the 2022-2023 school year for a student whose name is on file in the Office of Special Education. Motion carried; all voted aye.

Motion by Melanie Cunningham, seconded by Mike Elliott, to approve **Action Items B and C:**

- B. Motion to approve the **agreement with Team Tutor**, which will provide a researched based reading intervention (Wilson Reading) to qualifying students, for the 22-23 school year. ([Attachment B](#))
- C. Motion to approve a **Roof Master Plan Proposal from Mark J. Sobeck Roof Consulting, Inc.** in the amount of \$32,712. The cost of the master plan work will be funded from Facilities and Operations budgeted operating expenses. ([Attachment C](#))

Motion carried; all voted aye.

Motion by Mike Elliott, seconded by JP Prego, to approve **Action Items D and E:**

- D. Motion to **authorize the administration to contract with Granite Epik Edge for Internet Gateway Phone Dialing services** with cellular backup to add additional dial lines and to replace Verizon dial lines (POTS) across the district.
- E. Motion to approve the following **Krise Staff for 2022-2023:**
1. Joseph Wagner

Motion carried; all voted aye.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Motion by Mike Elliott, seconded by Melanie Cunningham, to approve the **attached payment of bills, in the amount of \$1,263,750.87 from the General Fund.** Motion carried; all voted aye.

Motion by Mike Elliott, seconded by Melanie Cunningham, to approve the **attached payment of bills, in the amount of \$1,418,398.56 from the Capital Projects & Reserve Funds.** Motion carried; all voted aye.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jennifer Hartzel, East Greenville, asked if there could be more transportation communication between the Western Center buses arriving at the high school and the buses who will be bringing the students home from the high school.

Matt Tomlin, Hereford Township, had concerns about the lengthy time of his daughter's bus rides and then no communication as to why. Mr. Tomlin said this happened last year and it was not only at the start of the school year.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mike Elliott, said he was happy to see the QPR Training was being offered to 9th Grade students.

Melanie Cunningham, said she was reading about federal grants and asked if the district has opportunities to address the available funds, and if it was possible for the district to obtain more of the available grants.

Mike Elliott commented that he thinks the bigger issue is why does the state make obtaining the grants so challenging.

JP Prego, explained what shout-outs are, for any new staff and families. Mr. Prego said how he issued a challenge to the community to send him good stories to end the Board meetings on a positive note. Mr. Prego also talked about Zack Schwartz being the Player of the Week and talked about the article on PennLive and how the students rallied around Zack by entering votes. Mr. Prego gave a shout-out to all the Teachers for supporting the students and knowing how tough the first two weeks of school can be.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mike Elliott, seconded by Melanie Cunningham that **the meeting be adjourned at 8:50 p.m.** Motion carried; all voted aye.

Daniel C. Direso, Board Secretary