

UPPER PERKIOMEN SCHOOL DISTRICT
2229 East Buck Road
Pennsburg PA 18073

October 13, 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 7:01 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, Emily McCormick (virtual) and Keith McCarrick. Administration in attendance were: Allyn Roche, EdD., Andrea Farina, EdD., Daniel Direso, Georgiann Fisher, Jim Roth and Kimberly Bast. Others in attendance were: Kyle Somers, Isabella Lara, Rachel Landis, Kylie Brinckman, Lon Brinckman, Jennifer Beltz, Jessica Gallagher, and Sean Gallagher.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Maginnis shared that tonight the Board will officially welcome the student representatives and that she hopes to include them in more Board discussions and for the students to have a more active role in the future.

Mrs. Maginnis thanked Alexis Jenofsky for the hard work she has put into the district website and pointed out how it is a lot easier to navigate.

Mrs. Maginnis reported that earlier in the day Board members toured the high school to see the progress on the GESA projects, she thanked Mrs. Cunningham and the Facilities Committee for working so closely with Mr. Kenwood on this.

President Maginnis gave a shout-out to all the fall student athletes and especially to the High School Girls' Soccer team for their record setting undefeated season.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Roche reported how the last few weeks have been busy with the Hereford Hike and Marlborough Day of Awesomeness and shared pictures of that day.

Dr. Roche announced that October 19, 2022 is Unity Day, and shared that with local companies to make it a whole community day for everyone to wear and share orange to show unity for kindness, acceptance and inclusion.

Dr. Roche shared that today was the last day of the grace period for Free and Reduced lunch and that communication has been sent to all families. Dr. Roche said the Free Breakfast program was off to a great start.

Dr. Roche announced that Tuesday, October 18th is the first of the three Community Conversations to meet with him to have an opportunity to discuss several different topics related to the Upper Perkiomen School District.

Dr. Roche announced that continuing with supporting the work that Dr. Farina and Mrs. Giblin do in offering and supporting parent workshops, an evening program entitled "Hidden High and Hammered" will be held on November 3, 2022 at the Education Center. Dr. Beth J. Sanborn is the presenter.

Dr. Roche shared that Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on November 21 and 22, 2022 and more information will be communicated by the building principals.

Dr. Roche read a statement from PSBA in regards to the PSBA Honor Roll for School Board. Dr. Roche presented a Certificate to Mr. Mike Elliott for eight years of service to the Upper Perkiomen School District and community.

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, and reviewed the public comments procedures.

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION

A. Introduction of Student Representatives to the Board of School Directors

- i. Oath of Office by Board President
- ii. Student Representative to the Board Report

Dr. Roche shared a bio of Isabella's involvements in and out of school. Isabella is a member of the Swim Team, Link Crew, Leo's Club, Jazz Band, Vice-President of the Concert Band, and the Senior Drum major of the Marching Band. Dr. Roche continued that outside of school Isabella is a lifeguard and is involved with the club swim team year-round at the YMCA, and is a member of USA Swimming. Isabella enjoys playing the guitar and reading in her spare time. Isabella plans to participate in Marching Band at a collegiate level and major in Music Education and a minor in Music Performance.

Dr. Roche shared a bio of Rachel's involvements in and out of school. Rachel serves on student council as Junior Class President, a member of the Future Business Leaders of America and on the Mini-Thon committee. Rachel is also involved in the Leo's Club, UPN, Yearbook, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and Club Esperanto. Rachel is employed at Raw Replenish and TJ Maxx and plans to attend college to major in Fashion Merchandise.

Mrs. Maginnis swore in Isabella Lara and Rachel Landis. Isabella and Rachel presented the Student Report:

PSAT testing happened yesterday for all 10th grade students and 11th grade students who opted to take them, QPR Training was held for 9th grade students and that was paired with Link Crew activities. Next week is Spirit Week and one of the days was replaced with Unity Day. The Homecoming pep rally will be held on October 21st, the Homecoming game is also that day and the Homecoming dance is on Saturday. It was shared that multiple sports teams are qualifying for district and league play-offs. The Junior Class is going to Washington D.C. on November 2nd and a fundraiser is being worked on.

B. Board Policy Revisions/Repeals & Adoptions (First Readings)

- i. Policy No. 006.1 - Remote Participation in Board Meeting (Revision)
- ii. Policy No. 218.3 - Discipline of Student/Convicted/Adjudicated of Sexual Assault (New)

Ms. Pennepacker hoped the Board had a chance to review the policies and Dr. Farina gave a brief explanation on the policies. Several questions were asked by Board members and a discussion was had.

C. Transportation Update

Mrs. Jenn Malone presented a two-year comparison from last September until this September and said things have changed a bit by having more students use transportation. Mrs. Malone showed pre-pandemic information and showed where we were then. Mrs. Malone shared some highlights on reduced runs, new drivers being in training and that hiring efforts and sign on bonuses continue. Mrs. Malone reported on a few challenges like struggles with athletics and field trips and upcoming road closures.

D. 2022-2023 Superintendent Goals Presentation

Dr. Roche shared a Power Point Presentation outlining the goals and shared where they are on the website. Dr. Roche reported that goals change each year and that these goals were part of the work under direction from last year's evaluation.

Goal 1 – Fiscal Stewardship and Budget Planning – to continue to support the business Department leadership transition and collaborate on the development and adoption of the budget.

Goal 2 – Student Achievement, Growth and Mental Health Supports – coordinate development and communication of goals and action plans to improve overall student achievement.

Goal 3 – Coordinate the development, deployment, and communication of goals and action plans designed to improve overall district operations and efficiency including: Facilities, Human Resources and Technology.

Goal 4 – Develop and deploy programs to increase student voice and feedback about student experiences at UPSD and increase engagement opportunities for parent and community stakeholders – to establish student advocacy groups in all schools, and engagement activities on campus and with the community.

Dr. Roche showed some of the new highlights on the website.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ACTION ITEMS

None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mike Elliott, seconded by Keith McCarrick, to approve the **September 8, 2022 School Board Meeting Minutes**. (Attachment A). Motion carried; all voted aye.

NEW BUSINESS

PERSONNEL REPORT

Motion by Keith McCarrick, seconded by Melanie Cunningham, to approve the **Personnel Report as presented**:

A. **RETIREMENTS**

1. **Judy Saylor**, Paraprofessional, submitted her intent to retire from her position with the district, effective December 23, 2022.

B. **APPOINTMENTS**

1. **SUPPORT STAFF**

- a. **Francesca Glackin**, 190 Day Administrative Assistant, for the Middle School to be hired subject to review of employment history and required clearances at \$14.00/hour, effective date TBD.
- b. **Abigail Clifford**, Reading Paraprofessional, for Marlborough Elementary to be hired subject to review of employment history and required clearances at \$14.50/hour, effective date TBD.
- c. **Jessica Keeler**, Part-Time Food Service Worker, for the district, to be hired subject to review of employment history and required clearances at \$12.00/ hour, effective date TBD.
- d. **MaKenna Phipps**, Job Coach for High School, to be hired subject to review of employment history and required clearances at \$15.50/hour, effective date TBD.

- e. **Donna Ryba**, Part-Time Food Service Worker, for the district, to be hired subject to review of employment history and required clearances at \$12.00/ hour, effective date TBD.
 - f. **Anna Boehm**, Paraprofessional for the district to be hired subject to review of employment history and required clearances at \$14.50/hour, effective date TBD.
2. **SUPPLEMENTAL POSITIONS**
- a. Webmasters
 1. Matt Lippincott (100%, 4th and 5th Grade Center)
 - b. Homebound Instructors for the 2022-2023 school year
 1. Ruth Guenther
 2. Rich Kressly
 3. Stephanie Diehl
 4. Melissa Smith
- C. **LEAVES OF ABSENCE**
1. **Gloria Hendricks**, approve Sick Leave beginning September 19, 2022 through November 14, 2022.
 2. **Jacqueline Shea-Winner**, approve Family and Medical Leave, beginning September 26, 2022 through December 19, 2022.
 3. **Jodie Sell**, approve Family and Medical Leave, beginning November 2, 2022 through December 15, 2022.

Motion carried; all voted aye.

ACTION ITEMS

- A. Motion by Mike Elliott, seconded by Keith McCarrick, to **appoint Isabella Lara (Gr. 12) and Rachel Landis (Gr. 11) as Student Representatives to the Board of School Directors**, each for a term of one school year. Motion carried; all voted aye.
- B. Motion by Keith McCarrick, seconded by Melanie Cunningham, to **adopt the attached Resolution** requiring the District's tax collectors to waive certain charges for the late payment of real estate taxes on property that was recently transferred when the taxpayer has not timely received a tax notice in accordance with Act 57 of 2022. (Attachment B). Motion carried; all voted aye.
- C. Motion by Keith McCarrick, seconded by Melanie Cunningham, to approve **the Student Activity Account & Scholarship List for the 2022-2023 school year** in accordance with Board Policy No. 618. (Attachment C). Motion carried; all voted aye.
- D. Motion by Mike Elliott, seconded by Keith McCarrick, to approve **the following Board Policy Revisions/Repeals & Adoptions, with the exception of item number iv:**
 - 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)

Motion carried; all voted aye.

Motion by Melanie Cunningham, seconded by Keith McCarrick, to approve the following **Board Policy Revisions/Repeals & Adoptions, item number iv:**

- iv. Policy No. 321 - Political Activities (Repeal & Replace)

VOTE: Hofkin – yes, Prego – yes, Hipszer – yes, **Elliott – no**, Maginnis – yes, Pennepacker – yes, Cunningham – yes, McCormick – yes, McCarrick – yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Melanie Cunningham, seconded by Keith McCarrick, to approve **Action Items E, F and G:**

- E. Motion to approve a **Project Allowance Request from NORESCO, LLC in the amount of \$9,042.49**. This request covers the replacement of a failed hot water reheat coil serving the UPHS boys' locker room water source heat pumps and the installation of a low limit sensor. (Attachment D)
- F. Motion to approve a **proposal from BSN Sports** for four (4) new retractable backboard masts in the UPHS main gym. The proposal also includes six (6) new glass collegiate backboards to replace existing backboards. The COSTARS cost for materials and installation is \$51,140.51. The cost of the electrical work associated with the project is estimated at \$4,200. This proposal is endorsed by the Facilities Committee. (Attachment E)
- G. Motion to **accept a proposal from Advance Protection Company** of Norristown, PA to furnish school security guards at an hourly rate of \$28. (Attachment F)

Motion carried; all voted aye.

H. Motion by Keith McCarrick, seconded by Mike Elliott, to approve the **following Krise Staff for 2022-2023:**

- i. Robin Edwards
- ii. Chelsea Moyer
- iii. Robert Westervelt
- iv. Deborah Pennington

Motion carried; all voted aye.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Motion by Melanie Cunningham, seconded by Keith McCarrick, to approve the **attached payment of bills, in the amount of \$2,185,167.85 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 \$876,515.42 from the Capital Projects & Reserve Funds**. Motion carried; all voted aye.

NEW FOLLOW UP ITEMS

Transportation update, possibly in January

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kylie Brinckman, thanked everyone for the time to speak and for allowing her to stay in band, and asked why private and parochial school students cannot participate in extra-curricular activities.

Miss Brinckman asked for the policy to be changed to allow students who attend private and parochial schools be able to participate in after school activities.

Lon Brinckman, East Greenville, thanked the Board and Administration for the rapid responses. Mr. Brinckman said he would like to see his daughter continue in Marching Band but is ineligible due to the policy. Mr. Brinckman read court cases and U.S. code related to similar situations and asked for consideration of changing the policy.

Jennifer Beltz, Marlborough Township, has a child on the high school volleyball team, the student was participating in a match at PJP and due to a scheduling mishap, the students arrived too early. The coaches took the athletes to WaWa and the parents were not notified. Ms. Beltz also had concerns about a student who was allowed to remain on the football team.

Jessica Gallagher, Marlborough Township, spoke about a student who was allowed to stay on the football team after allegations were made against him and felt the district was responsible for the incident that occurred and should have protected other students. Mrs. Gallagher indicated that Mrs. Fisher was the only person who helped her with the situation.

Sean Gallagher, Marlborough Township, had the same concerns with the district about the same student.

BOARD COMMENTS

Raeann Hofkin, asked if the policy about extra-curricular participation could be brought up or added to the policy committee meeting soon. Mrs. Hofkin gave a shout-out to the students who planned the first Field to Faith event at Upper Perkiomen that was held at Keeny Stadium last night. Mrs. Hofkin thanked Dr. Carpenter, Mrs. Flack and other staff for making the event possible and to the students who were brave and stood up and declared their love for Jesus.

Mike Elliott, wanted to say to the gentleman that left that he was not smirking at him. Mr. Elliott said how it is hard to hear so many negative things being said to himself and the Board. Mr. Elliott said he would like to see an exception made to the extra-curricular situation.

Melanie Cunningham, said it is really hard to have a thick skin and that she has one now.

Emily McCormick, appreciates and echoes what Mr. Elliott and Mrs. Cunningham said.

JP Prego, gave a shout-out to Mrs. Levan for being kind and caring. Mr. Prego shared a slide of Mayah Montero, middle school student, participating in a play in Philadelphia that was inspired by the book she wrote about bullying a few years ago.

Judy Maginnis reminded everyone about the upcoming Committee meetings and would love for everyone to attend them.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Keith McCarrick, seconded by Melanie Cunningham that **the meeting be adjourned at 8:34 p.m.** Motion carried; all voted aye.

Daniel C. Direso, Board Secretary

