

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

**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**November 23, 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 7:02 p.m. as a virtual and in-person meeting.

The following Board members 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 attendance were: Allyn J. Roche, EdD., Andrea Farina, EdD., Sandra M. Kassel, Kimberly Bast, and Georgiann Fisher. Others in attendance were: Kyle Somers, Rob Carpenter, EdD., Bobby Kurzweg, Jessica Kuntz, Shannon Downs, Jim Papeika, Jennifer Hartzel, Cheryl Barger, Amy Fadil, Tanya Kennedy, Matthew Tomlin, and Cookie McGowan,

**PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION**

A. Winter Athletics - Mr. Kurzweg (Athletic Director) and Dr. Carpenter (UPHS Principal)

Mr. Kurzweg and Dr. Carpenter talked about the success of the Fall Athletic program due to all participants complying with the Health and Safety Plan and following the guidelines. They presented the Updated Health and Safety Plan and talked about the updated mask mandate for Winter Athletics. New sport specific guidelines were discussed.

Board members had many questions and comments.

**DISCUSSIONS**

A. Review of Montgomery County and Local Municipality COVID-19 Metrics/Data

Dr. Roche shared a few slides showing updates since the last time the Board met. He talked about the Montgomery County Board of Health Order that required all schools to be in Full Remote Learning for the period of November 23<sup>rd</sup> – December 6<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Farina explained the chart showing how many cases it would take for schools to close. Dr. Roche and Mr. Somers talked about the Attestation document that needs to be submitted to PDE. Dr. Farina and Dr. Roche said that one of the factors that has to be considered is the Personnel impact.

B. Date of Transition from the Full Virtual Instructional Model to the Hybrid Instructional Model

Dr. Roche shared a slide of all the factors to consider at this time including the PA DOH guidance, the Montgomery County guidance, and staffing/students concerns with isolation/quarantine challenges that could lead to potential functioning closures.

Dr. Roche said the administration recommendation, based on all of the factors and conversations he has been having for weeks and looking at the numbers, would be to shift the start date of the transition to the hybrid model until after the winter break, specifically January 19<sup>th</sup>, which would give a full two weeks following the winter break. He announced that if the Board was interested in making that a motion they could add it to the agenda for tonight.

Motion by Stephen Cunningham, seconded by Keith McCarrick, **to add the motion, to approve the administrative recommendation for an adjusted date to transition to a K-12 Hybrid Instructional Model beginning January 19, 2021, to the agenda as an Action Item.** Motion carried; all voted aye.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ACTION ITEMS ONLY**

Jessica Kuntz, Red Hill, expressed her displeasure in the students being in a virtual program.

Shannon Downs, Upper Hanover Township, shared her frustration with students being out of school and feels there would not be a problem if the safety protocols are followed.

Jim Papeika, Marlborough Township, thanked everyone for their work in dealing with this difficult situation. He asked about considering putting out a new parent declaration for parents who had considered the holidays when making their choice earlier.

Jennifer Hartzel, East Greenville, asked if the Western Center students will be going to school in December or if they had to wait until January.

Cheryl Barger, Pennsburg, asked if the length of English and Math classes will be increased. She said it has been greatly reduced in the virtual model.

Amy Fadil, Upper Hanover Township, asked if the closure would get extended is there a plan for PSAT's. She stated that Wednesday is not a free day and her high school student is working all day and reaching out to teachers.

Tanya Kennedy, Hereford Township, not happy with decision to bring sports back but not the other activities. She has concerns about a date of December 7<sup>th</sup> to have any students or staff being in school. She said her family is pleased with the education her son is getting in order to keep everyone safe.

Matthew Tomlin, Hereford Township, commented about the district not being able to get Hereford data.

Cookie McGowan, Upper Hanover Township, thanked everyone and said it is disheartening to listen to angry comments because she feels the district and board is doing the best out of concern for the safety of everyone.

#### **B. ACTION ITEMS**

Motion by Stephen Cunningham, seconded by Keith McCarrick, to approve **the administrative recommendation for an adjusted date to transition to a K-12 Hybrid Instructional Model beginning January 19, 2021**. ROLL CALL VOTE: M. Cunningham – yes, S. Cunningham – yes, Elliott – yes, Hipszer – yes, **Hofkin – no**, Maginnis – yes, McCarrick – yes, Pennepacker – yes, Drake – yes. Motion carried.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Jim Papeika, Marlborough Township, appreciates what everyone has done and asked again about considering to reissue a new parent declaration.

#### **BOARD COMMENTS**

Dr. Drake thanked everyone for taking the time during a holiday week and asked everyone to have a happy, safe and healthy Thanksgiving.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Keith McCarrick, seconded by Dana Hipszer, that **the meeting be adjourned at 9:02 p.m.** Motion carried; all voted aye.

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Sandra M. Kassel, Board Secretary

