

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

December 5, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

The Reorganization meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Upper Perkiomen Education Center with the following members attending: Raeann Hofkin, JP Prego, Dana Hipszer, Mike Elliott, Judy Maginnis, Melanie Cunningham, Emily McCormick, Peg Pennepacker, and Keith McCarrick.

ELECTION OF TEMPORARY PRESIDENT

Keith McCarrick nominated JP Prego to be elected as **Temporary President of the December 5, 2022 reorganization of the Board of School Directors.**

Judy Maginnis asked for the vote for all in favor of **electing JP Prego as the Temporary President of the December 5, 2022 reorganization of the Board of School Directors.** Motion carried; all voted aye.

JP Prego was elected Temporary President of the December 5, 2022 reorganization of the Board of School Directors.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A nomination for **Melanie Cunningham** to be elected as **President** of the Upper Perkiomen School Board was made by Keith McCarrick.

JP Prego asked for the vote for all in favor of **electing Melanie Cunningham as President of the Upper Perkiomen Board of School Directors.** VOTE: Hofkin – yes, Prego – yes, Hipszer – yes, Elliott – yes, **Maginnis – abstain**, Pennepacker – yes, Cunningham – yes, McCormick – yes, McCarrick – yes. Motion carried.

Melanie Cunningham was elected President of the Upper Perkiomen School Board.

A nomination for **Peg Pennepacker** to be elected as **Vice President** of the Upper Perkiomen School Board was made by Emily McCormick.

Melanie Cunningham asked for the vote for all in favor of **electing Peg Pennepacker as Vice President of the Upper Perkiomen Board of School Directors.** Motion carried; all voted aye.

Peg Pennepacker was elected Vice President of the Upper Perkiomen School Board.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Keith McCarrick, seconded by Mike Elliott **that the meeting be adjourned at 7:10 pm.** Motion carried; all voted aye.

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December 5, 2022

The regular meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Upper Perkiomen School District was called to order by President Melanie Cunningham, at 7:11 p.m. at the Upper Perkiomen Education Center.

The following Board members attended: Raeann Hofkin, JP Prego, Dana Hipszer, Mike Elliott, Melanie Cunningham, Peg Pennepacker, Judith Maginnis, Emily McCormick and Keith McCarrick. Administration in attendance were: Allyn Roche, EdD., Andrea Farina, EdD., Daniel Direso, Georgiann Fisher, and Kimberly Bast. Others in attendance were: Kyle Somers, Isabella Lara, Bobby Kurzweg, Mike Freed, Casey Lewis, Jennifer Lentz, Holly Francisco, Alicia Austin, Phil Detwiler, and Bob LaSalle.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Cunningham did not have a report.

Vice President Peg Pennepacker and Chair of the Negotiations Committee, read a statement to provide an update to the community concerning the current contract negotiations between the district and the Upper Perkiomen Education Association.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Roche said everyone is thrilled to be recognizing and celebrating the Girls Soccer team that evening. Dr. Roche thanked the coaches, players, parents and everyone involved for such a fantastic season and said how fun and exciting the entire season was.

Dr. Roche shared pictures from the student led Fall Fest at the High School, the Middle School Career Day where Kate Scott, the play by play announcer for the Philadelphia 76ers attended. Pictures from the Turkey Trot at the Middle School were also shown and Dr. Roche talked about the Preschool Partnership with the elementary schools.

Dr. Roche congratulated Ms. Peg Pennepacker for being inducted into the NIAAA Hall of Fame on December 13th at the National Athletic Directors Conference in Nashville.

Dr. Roche shared transportation updates regarding the bridge closure and encouraged parents to not drop off students in the middle of Montgomery Avenue and for students to not cross in the middle of the road. Dr. Roche said there was an MOU on the agenda with Red Hill Borough to be able to access the emergency road at the high school during the bridge closure.

Dr. Roche reminded the community of the next Community Conversations which will be held on December 20, 2022 at Krise Transportation building at 1221 Water Street, East Greenville which will give people the opportunity to see the new Krise building.

Dr. Roche wished Happy Holidays to everyone.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BOARD REPORT

Isabella Lara congratulated the High School Girls soccer team for placing second in the state. Isabella said that Winter Sports have started practice, FBLA has a trip to New York City planned, and the Junior Class fundraiser this month is a winter themed daycare event which will allow parents to do holiday shopping. Miss Lara said that the High School Instrumental concert is on December 13th and the High School Choral concert is on December 20th.

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 matters of collective bargaining between the district and the Upper Perkiomen Education Association. Mr. Somers reviewed the policy of the Public Comments sections of the Board meeting.

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION

A. Recognition of Upper Perkiomen High School Girls Soccer Team

Athletic Director Bobby Kurzweg introduced Head Coach Mike Freed and shared the accomplishments that the team attained. Mr. Freed said there was so much that could be said about the terrific group of young ladies. The team was the **2022 Frontier Division Champions**, the **2022 Pioneer Athletic Conference Champions**, the **2022 District 1 3A Champions**, and the **2022 PIAA 3A Runner-Up**. The team was also awarded the **2021-2022 United Soccer Coach's Pinnacle Award** which meant they met the team academic and the team sportsmanship criteria. The team was the first in school history to obtain many of these accomplishments. Coach Freed and Coach Lewis presented the players with certificates and announced their individual recognitions.

Head Coach is Mike Freed, Assistant Coaches are Casey Lewis and Kristin Ott. Players are: Ava Long, Alex Cronk, Elyse Kreiner, Jada Roderick, Lill Peyton, Sarah Fisher, Mary Kate Sitko, Lauren Powers, Katie Proctor, Ruth Padilla, Erin Edwards, Aryanna Galota, Elizabeth Proctor, Morgan Sweed, Sara Edwards, Megan Cairns, Kylee Casola, Addisyn Fluckey, Alex Cannon, Sara Straup, Jenna Langenback, Kyra Lesko, and Rylee Rahill.

B. Board Policy Revisions/Adoptions/Repeals - First Reading:

i. No. 236.1 - Threat Assessment (New - Adoption)

Dr. Farina explained that in accordance with Act 18 of 2019 the school district is required to have a comprehensive threat assessment plan both at the district level and within each school building.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ACTION ITEMS

None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Keith McCarrick, seconded by JP Prego, to approve the **November 10, 2022 School Board Meeting Minutes**. (Attachment A). Motion carried; all voted aye.

OLD BUSINESS

Raeann Hofkin asked if there was an update on the Girl's Wrestling proposal.

NEW BUSINESS

PERSONNEL REPORT

Dr. Roche announced a correction on the agenda, under Appointments, Professional Staff, Letter A, should read Bachelor's + 15, Step 4.

Motion by Keith McCarrick, seconded by Emily McCormick, to approve the **Personnel Report as presented, with the announced correction**:

A. **RETIREMENTS:**

i. **Diane Hipszer**, submitted her intent to retire from the district on February 3, 2023.

B. **RESIGNATIONS:**

i. **Justin Arifaj**, Guidance Counselor resigned his position with the district on November 15, 2022.

- ii. **Christina Kriebel**, Special Education Teacher resigned her position with the district on November 29, 2022.

C. APPOINTMENTS

1. PROFESSIONAL STAFF:

- a. **Lindsey Callado**, Speech and Language Therapist, to be hired subject to required clearances and employment history review at **Bachelor’s+15, Step 4**, prorated for the 2022-2023 school year.

2. SUPPORT STAFF

- a. **Holly Yabroski**, Administrative Assistant, Marlborough Elementary, to be hired subject to required clearances and employment history review, at \$16.00/hour for up to 190 days, prorated for the 2022-2023 school year.
- b. **Gail Rennie**, Crossing Guard, to be hired subject to required clearances and employment history review, at \$14.00/hour, approximately two hours/day, for up to 190 days, prorated for the 2022-2023 school year.
- c. **Adrien Stauffer**, Part-time Custodian, to be hired subject to required clearances and employment history review, at \$14.50/hour for up to 190 days, prorated for the 2022-2023 school year.

3. SUPPLEMENTAL POSITIONS:

- a. **ADVISORS/ COACHES** for 2022-2023:

Area	Position	Name	Schedule	Salary
4th and 5th Grade Center	Reading Olympics Advisor	Kelly Alderfer	B	1175.00

D. LEAVES OF ABSENCE

- 1. **Gloria Hendricks**, approve additional sick leave, November 17, 2022 through December 19, 2022.
- 2. **Jodie Sell**, continue Family and Medical Leave from December 15, 2022 through January 2, 2023.
- 3. **Marybeth Theoret**, approve Family and Medical Leave beginning continuously on December 6, 2022 through December 11, 2022 and intermittently thereafter for a total of up to 12 weeks, sixty work days.

Motion carried; all voted aye.

ACTION ITEMS

- A. Motion by JP Prego, seconded by Keith McCarrick, to approve **the 2023 School Board Meeting and Workshop Dates**. (Attachment B). Motion carried; all voted aye.
- B. Motion by JP Prego, seconded by Keith McCarrick, to approve **the following Board Policy & Administrative Regulation Revisions/Adoptions**:
 - i. No. 212 AR - Student Progress
 - ii. No. 326 - Complaint Process
 - iii. No. 330 - Overtime

- C. Motion by Keith McCarrick, seconded JP Prego, to approve **that Between this meeting and the next meeting of the Board scheduled for January 12, 2023, the Board of School Directors authorizes the Superintendent to take action on behalf of and in the name of the District for the following purposes:**
- i. Hiring of staff, teachers and other administrative employees for open budgeted positions where the failure to hire prior to January 12, 2023, could impair the ability of the District to attract the best candidates for such open and budgeted positions. Such action shall be ratified by the Board at its meeting on January 12, 2023.
Motion carried; all voted aye.
- D. Motion by JP Prego, seconded by Melanie Cunningham, to approve **Keith McCarrick as an Upper Perkiomen School Board representative on the Western Center Montgomery County Career & Technical Center's Joint Operating Committee** for a term to expire December, 2025. Motion carried; all voted aye.
- E. Motion by Mike Elliott, seconded by Emily McCormick, to approve **the placement of a donated 12" x 24" dedication plaque recognizing Dr. Thomas Persing** at the hallway entrance to the Upper Perkiomen High School Auxiliary Gym/Wrestling Room. Motion carried; all voted aye.
- F. Motion by Mike Elliott, seconded by Keith McCarrick, to approve the **High School Overnight Trip:**
- i. Motion to approve eligible members of the **High School Wrestling Team to attend a Tournament at Penn Manor High School, Millersville, PA** December 9-10, 2022.
Motion carried; all voted aye.

Motion by Keith McCarrick, seconded by Dana Hipszer, to approve **Action Items G, H, I and J:**

- G. Motion to approve **two Curriculum Projects for 2022-2023:**
- i. 2nd and 3rd grade Writing Curriculum:
 1. Four elementary teachers, up to 15 hours each, not to exceed \$2,500 (60 hours at contractual hourly rate)
 - ii. Complete Standards Based Report Card for 1st grade:
 1. Four elementary teachers, up to 8 hours each, not to exceed \$1,300 (32 hours at contractual hourly rate)
- H. Motion to approve the **Memo of Understanding between Upper Perkiomen School District and the Borough of Red Hill** to allow non-emergency access by school buses at 8th & Jefferson Street in Red Hill during repair work to the Bridge on Route 29 in Red Hill. (Attachment C)
- I. Motion to approve the **three year quote for Traversa software with Tyler Technologies Inc.** as per the recommendation from the Finance Committee (Attachment D)
- J. Motion to approve the **December Contractor Staff Additions for Krise Transportation:**
- i. William Morrow

Motion carried; all voted aye.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Motion by Emily McCormick, seconded by Keith McCarrick, to approve the **attached payment of bills, in the amount of \$1,058,073.32 from the General Fund.** Motion carried; all voted aye.

Motion by Keith McCarrick, seconded by JP Prego, to approve the **attached payment of bills, in the amount of \$306,671.35 from the Capital Projects & Reserve Funds.** Motion carried; all voted aye.

NEW FOLLOW UP ITEMS

Girls Wrestling proposal.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jennifer Lentz, talked about several issues she had concerning her daughter and the High School Assistant Cheerleading Coach.

Holly Francisco, Upper Perkiomen School District teacher, spoke about the dedicated teaching staff that support students and the need for an equitable and fair settlement.

Alicia Austin, Upper Perkiomen School District teacher, spoke about the need for teachers to have preparation time in order to accomplish all that they need to do in order for students to be successful and said the students will suffer if preparation time is not given to the teachers.

Phil Detwiler, Upper Perkiomen School District teacher, talked about the devoted teaching staff and the challenges in teaching during the pandemic. Mr. Detwiler spoke about their disappointment with the lead negotiator and the negotiations committee and the need for preparation time for student's success.

Bob LaSalle, Upper Perkiomen School District teacher, talked about changes over the years and how colleagues are drained. Mr. LaSalle said that given the circumstances of the last three years, he never expected these negotiations to be the most difficult and spoke about the concern for a teaching staff shortage. Mr. LaSalle said he would like to see a settlement before the fact-finding process.

BOARD COMMENTS

Keith McCarrick reminded everyone about the Open House at the Western Center on Wednesday, December 7th from 6:00 until 8:00 pm and said they could not comment on the negotiations.

Raeann Hofkin wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mike Elliott thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting.

JP Prego had a shout out from Open Link, thanking everyone who donated allowing them to be able to help feed neighbors this holiday, including the Upper Perkiomen School District's schools, The Open Link especially wanted to thank the Upper Perkiomen Middle School Life Skills class and their teacher Janice Lonergan for the applesauce cups with handmade turkeys that went out to the Meals on Wheels recipients and seniors who enjoyed a Thanksgiving meal at the Center.

Melanie Cunningham reminded everyone about Committee meetings that will be starting in January.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Keith McCarrick, seconded by Raeann Hofkin, that **the meeting be adjourned at 8:14 p.m.** Motion carried; all voted aye.

Daniel C. Direso, Board Secretary