

UPPER PERKIOMEN SCHOOL DISTRICT
2229 East Buck Road
Pennsburg PA 18073

BOARD WORKSHOP
September 22, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

The Board Workshop of the Board of School Directors of the Upper Perkiomen School District was called to order by President Judith Maginnis, at 7:08 p.m. in the Upper Perkiomen Education Center.

The following Board members attended: Raeann Hofkin, J.P. Prego, Dana Hipszer, Mike Elliott, Judy Maginnis, Peg Pennepacker, Melanie Cunningham, Emily McCormick and Keith McCarrick. Administration in attendance were: Allyn Roche, EdD., Andrea Farina, EdD., Georgiann Fisher, and Daniel Direso. Others in attendance were: Kyle Somers, Rachel Landis, Jenn Hartzel, Bryan Moyer, Mark Smith, and Steve Adam.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Communications Committee - Mike Elliott

Mr. Elliott reported that Alexis Jenofsky, the new Communications Specialist was in attendance at the meeting. Mr. Elliott reported that Alexis has been making some changes to the UPSD website, making it more user friendly and easier to see things, such as the lunch menus. Mr. Elliott said the next meeting is scheduled for January and the committee will be talking about branding and social media.

b. Educational Programs and Services Committee – Mike Elliott

Mr. Elliott reported that at the last committee meeting, Responsive Classroom and Restorative Practices were discussed and said how it is good for everyone to see the educational programs and hear about the benefits for students. Mr. Elliott announced that the next meeting is scheduled for October 20, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

c. Extracurricular Committee – Dana Hipszer

Mr. Hipszer reported that the Extra-Curricular Committee is scheduled to meet on September 26, 2022 at 6:00 pm., and they will be continuing the discussion on the practice of adding sports.

d. Facilities Committee – Melanie Cunningham

Mrs. Cunningham gave an update on the GESA projects, Phase 1A and 1B are almost complete. Mrs. Cunningham reported that as part of the sidewalk project, Upper Hanover Township had the district plant trees and six had died and new ones were replanted that day. The next meeting is scheduled for September 26, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

e. Finance Committee – Melanie Cunningham

Mrs. Cunningham said the discussion at the meeting was looking over the Act 1 index and the STEB ratio, charter school enrollment and costs, and free breakfasts that are now available from the state.

f. Policy Committee – Peg Pennepacker

Ms. Pennepacker announced that the September meeting is scheduled for September 26, 2022 at 5:00 pm. The committee will continue the review of policies. The next meeting after that is scheduled for October 17, 2022 at 5pm.

g. Western Montgomery Career & Technology Center – Keith McCarrick

Mr. McCarrick reported that there was a power outage the day before and the afternoon session was not held. Mr. McCarrick said the Western Center is looking for many instructors, and the Montgomery County Community College visited to speak with students about opportunities after completing their programs. Mr. McCarrick reported that the Culinary Arts program purchased a smart oven through funds from a grant, and the Pottstown Fire Department donated a fire truck that was 40 years old for the Protective Services Department to have real life equipment to practice on.

h. Upper Perkiomen Education Foundation – Emily McCormick

Mrs. McCormick reported that the committee talked about the year ahead, some spirit wear sales, and reviewed some of the grants that were given and what they were used for. The next meeting is scheduled for October.

i. Montgomery County Intermediate Unit – Judy Maginnis

No report

j. Legislative Liaison Report – Peg Pennepacker

Ms. Pennepacker talked about Act 57, the Tax Collection Law that was passed. Ms. Pennepacker reported that the Senate Education Committee met the day before and passed House Bills. Ms. Pennepacker shared that a topic of conversation has been about a few legislators wanting to create a permanent program to provide Pennsylvania K-12 students with free breakfast and lunch, calling it the Universal School Meal Fund.

Ms. Pennepacker encouraged Board members to continue to follow legislative activity through Dr. Roche's weekly Board update as he lists many legislative happenings.

Ms. Pennepacker gave a PIAA update about the September meeting that was held via Zoom, which included one appeal hearing. Ms. Pennepacker reported that topics that were tabled until next month include further conversation about NIL (Name, Image and Likeness), and a discussion to make it a requirement of all athletic directors to achieve NIAAA certification within four years from PIAA Board of Directors approval.

k. Regional Planning Commission Representative – Dana Hipszer

Mr. Hipszer reported that at the meeting the County's Comprehensive Plan was discussed and each municipality's stake in working together to provide a healthy mix of land uses.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BOARD REPORT

Rachel Landis shared that it has been a good school year so far and it has been kind of normal which is just great.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT/SUNSHINE ACT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Somers announced that the Board of School Directors met in an executive session on September 16, 2022 for the purpose of discussing matters of collective bargaining involving the Upper Perkiomen Education Association. The Board again met in an executive session immediately prior to tonight's meeting also for the purpose of discussing matters of collective bargaining. Mr. Somers reviewed the Public Comments sections.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ACTION ITEMS

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Keith McCarrick, seconded by Mike Elliott, to approve the **August 25, 2022, Board Workshop Minutes** (Attachment A). Motion carried; all voted aye.

PERSONNEL

Motion by Mike Elliott, seconded by Melanie Cunningham, to approve the **Personnel Report as presented**. Motion carried; all voted aye.

a. RESIGNATIONS

- i. **Melissa Hardy**, Food Service Manager, resigned her position with the district, effective September 16, 2022.
- ii. **Patti Corbin**, Food Service Manager, resigned her position with the district August 6, 2022.
- iii. **Donna Brewer**, Food Service Worker, resigned her position with the district effective August 8, 2022.

b. APPOINTMENTS

i. PROFESSIONAL STAFF

- 1. **Sarah Stevens**, Physical Education Teacher for the district to be hired subject to review of employment history and required clearances, at Bachelor's +15, Step 3, prorated for the 2022-2023 school year, effective date to be determined.
- 2. **Rachel Dishman**, Speech and Language Therapist for the district to be hired subject to review of employment history and required clearances, at Master's, Step 2, prorated for the 2022-2023 school year, effective date to be determined.

ii. SUPPORT STAFF

- 1. **Shauri Reinhardt-Mientus**, Part-Time Custodian for the district to be hired subject to review of employment history and required clearances at \$14.50/hour, effective date TBD.
- 2. **Cathie Hill**, existing employee, appointed to the role of 12-Month Administrative Assistant at Hereford Elementary School, effective date to be determined, at the same rate of pay.
- 3. **Karen Snyder**, existing employee, appointed to the role of 12-Month Administrative Assistant at Marlborough Elementary School, effective date to be determined, at the same rate of pay.
- 4. **Hunter Dalske**, 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 to be determined.
- 5. **Jeffrey Pierson**, Full-Time Custodian for the district to be hired subject to review of employment history and required clearances at \$14.50/hour, effective date to be determined.
- 6. **Debra Woods**, 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 to be determined.

iii. SUPPLEMENTAL POSITIONS

- 1. For the **2022-2023** school year:

Area	Position	Name	Schedule	Salary
Cheerleading	HS Assistant Coach	Sarah Day	B	\$1760.00

- 2. **HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTORS** for the 2022-2023 school year:

- a. Heather Levan
- b. Michele Kline

c. **LEAVES OF ABSENCE**

- i. **Debra Burns**, approve Sabbatical Leave for Professional Development, effective January 24, 2023 through the end of the 2022-2023 school year.
- ii. **Dawn Csisek**, approve sick leave beginning on September 20, 2022 and continuing until (approximately) October 10, 2022.
- iii. **Jenna Bohling**, approve Family and Medical Leave, intermittently, beginning September 9, 2022.

ACTION ITEMS

Motion by Mike Elliott, seconded by JP Prego, to approve **Action items A and B:**

- a. Special Education Services:
 - i. Motion to approve the **Agreement with Buxmont Academy for the 2022-2023 academic school year** for one special education slot at a rate of \$174.35 per day and one regular education slot at a rate of \$143.06 per day. Per diem rates are \$193.72 for special education non-slot enrollments and \$158.96 for regular education non-slot enrollments. (Attachment B)
- b. Motion to **increase Site Manager hourly rate to \$25.00/hour**, effective September 23, 2022.

Motion carried; all voted aye.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jennifer Hartzel, East Greenville, asked who you should contact with an issue concerning a coach.

Bryan Moyer, Red Hill, talked about girl's wrestling and the existing district policy and only choosing sanctioned sports. Mr. Moyer feels it would be beneficial for the district to add a girl's wrestling team.

Mark Smith, East Greenville, talked about a public comment he made at the Board meeting in June of 2022, about wanting to add girl's wrestling as a sport at Upper Perkiomen and changing Policy 123. Mr. Smith said that many more schools have added girl's wrestling since he last spoke and that Upper Perkiomen could be a part of history if they were to become one of the first one hundred schools to add the sport. Mr. Smith said there are coaches available and willing and many members of the community supporting this goal and hopes the district will strongly consider adding the sport.

Steve Adam, Upper Perkiomen High School wrestling coach, spoke about girls' wrestling being the fastest growing sport and how it has increased participants in boy's wrestling. Mr. Adam feels this is a great time and opportunity for the district to approve the sport.

BOARD COMMENTS

Peg Pennepacker, thanked the people who spoke about the girl's wrestling, and wanted the Board to know how important and beneficial it would be to add this as a district sport. Ms. Pennepacker has been following this topic for quite a while and pushing for this. Ms. Pennepacker talked about participants and feels many of the athletes will not be taken away from other sports but will be new to this sport.

Mike Elliott agrees about the girl's wrestling and asked what the Board needs to do to make this happen.

Keith McCarrick asked about the policy and the OCR report.

Judy Maginnis asked about the next steps and adding the wrestling topic to the Policy and Extra-Curricular meetings, a discussion occurred with Mrs. Fisher, Dr. Farina and Dr. Roche.

Mike Elliott, asked if there will be an update on bussing at the next meeting.

Raeann Hofkin, asked if there will also be an update on the bus app.

JP Prego, commented that it would be great to get the wrestling done. Mr. Prego read two anonymous shout-outs that thanked all of the staff at the high school for a great start to a new school year, and for holding a nice back to school night at the high school.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Melanie Cunningham, seconded by Mike Elliott to **adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m.**
Motion carried; all voted aye.

Daniel C. Direso, Board Secretary

