

UNIONTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Meeting of Monday October 4, 2021

A **Regular Meeting** of the Uniontown Area Board of School Directors was held on **Monday October 4, 2021 at 6:30 p.m., prevailing time**. There were present at the meeting, Directors Clay, Grahek Meadows, Neill, Rittenhouse, Tanner and Dawson were present. Superintendent Machesky, Assistant to the Superintendent Bosnic, and Solicitor Brungo were also present.

President Dawson called the meeting to order with a moment for silent meditation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.


**APPROVE
MINUTES**

Director Clay moved and Director Grahek seconded approval of the regular meeting minutes of September 7, 2021 and the Special Meeting Minutes from September 12, 2021.

A vote upon the motion resulted as follows: Director Clay, yea; Grahek, yea; Meadows, yea; Neill, yea; Rittenhouse, yea; Tanner, yea; and Dawson, yea. There being seven yeas and no nays, the President declared the motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

Jim Summerville, Pennsylvania School Board Association Member Services Manager, introduced Mrs. Lena Hannah as the new representative for Uniontown Area School District. He also left a Certificate of Appreciation for Mr. Don Rugola in recognition for his 8 years of service. He presented a plaque to Mr. William Rittenhouse and recognized him for his ongoing service and long-term contributions (24 years) to public education in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.



Jaclyn S. Blackson, Board Secretary

UNIONTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Meeting of October 4, 2021

STUDENT REPORT Miss Rugola was unable to attend. A copy is attached to and made part of these minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENT Dr. Melissa Schell questioned Attachment #2 which was the Memorandum of Understanding between U.A.S.D. and The Uniontown Area Education Association asking for more information to be provided regarding our teachers teaching remote students through Edgenuity. Dr. Machesky, Dr. Bosnic and Miss Harris answered her questions regarding the program. She also stated that she would like to have seen the ESSER funds to be used for our teachers to teach online learning rather than \$11 per day through Edgenuity. Dr. Schell also asked what account number the solicitor fees were being paid from in the General Fund. It was clarified that he was being paid from the 2300 level. She also questioned the Board if they have been consulted regarding the Business Manager and Confidential Secretaries Contracts. Dr. Machesky said he was bringing it to the board to vote yes or no this evening. She believes the board should have discussed the compensation prior.

REVISION TO EMERGENCY TIME TEMPLATE APPROVED Director Meadows moved and Director Clay seconded the approval of the revisions to The Emergency Instructional Time Template for the 2021-2022 school term as presented.

A vote upon the motion resulted as follows: Director Clay, yea; Grahek, yea; Meadows, yea; Neill, yea; Rittenhouse, yea; Tanner, yea; and Dawson, yea. There being seven yeas and no nays, the President declared the motion carried.


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UNIONTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Meeting of October 4, 2021

**REVISION OF M.O.U
REGARDING CYBER
COMPENSATION
APPROVED** Director Meadows moved and Director Clay seconded the approval of the revision to the Memorandum of Understanding between U.A.S.D. and U.A.E.A. in regard to cyber compensation as presented.

A vote upon the motion resulted as follows: Director Clay, yea; Grahek, yea; Meadows, yea; Neill, yea; Rittenhouse, yea; Tanner, yea; and Dawson, yea. There being seven yeas and no nays, the President declared the motion carried.

**FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS** Director Rittenhouse moved and Director Grahek seconded the approval of the following financial statements for August, 2021:
(a) General Fund Treasurer's Report
(b) Budget and Revenue Report

A vote upon the motion resulted as follows: Director Clay, yea; Grahek, yea; Meadows, yea; Neill, yea; Rittenhouse, yea; Tanner, yea; and Dawson, yea. There being seven yeas and no nays, the President declared the motion carried.

**APPROVE BILLS
FOR PAYMENT** Director Rittenhouse moved and Director Clay seconded approval for payment of the following bills, authorizing and directing Officers of the Board to issue vouchers for same:
(a) General Fund
(b) U.A.H.S. Construction Fund
(c) Cafeterias
(d) Federal Funds

A vote upon the motion resulted as follows: Director Clay, yea; Grahek, yea; Meadows, yea; Neill, yea; Rittenhouse, yea; Tanner, yea; and Dawson, yea. There being seven yeas and no nays, the President declared the motion carried.


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UNIONTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Meeting of October 4, 2021

APPROVE PAYROLL Director Rittenhouse moved and Director Grahek seconded approval of payroll for September 2021.

A vote upon the motion resulted as follows: Director Clay, yea; Grahek, yea; Meadows, yea; Neill, yea; Rittenhouse, yea; Tanner, yea; and Dawson, yea. There being seven yeas and no nays, the President declared the motion carried.

BUSINESS MANAGER CONTRACT APPROVED Director Rittenhouse moved and Director Clay seconded the approval of the Business Manager's contract for the 2021-2022 school term as presented.

A vote upon the motion resulted as follows: Director Clay, yea; Grahek, yea; Meadows, yea; Neill, yea; Rittenhouse, yea; Tanner, yea; and Dawson, yea. There being seven yeas and no nays, the President declared the motion carried.

CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARY CONTRACTS APPROVED Director Rittenhouse moved and Director Clay seconded the approval of the Confidential Secretaries Contract for the 2021-2022 school term as presented.

A vote upon the motion resulted as follows: Director Clay, yea; Grahek, yea; Meadows, yea; Neill, yea; Rittenhouse, yea; Tanner, yea; and Dawson, yea. There being seven yeas and no nays, the President declared the motion carried.

RESIGNATION OF EMPLOYEE 101997 APPROVED Director Neill moved and Director Grahek seconded the approval to accept the resignation of employee #101997 as a special education teacher at Lafayette Elementary School effective 9/27/2021.

A vote upon the motion resulted as follows: Director Clay, yea; Grahek, yea; Meadows, yea; Neill, yea; Rittenhouse, yea; Tanner, yea; and Dawson, yea. There being seven yeas and no nays, the President declared the motion carried.



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Regular Meeting of October 4, 2021**

**KELSEY ANDRES
RESIGNS AS
GUIDANCE
COUNSELOR**

Director Neill moved and Director Grahek seconded the approval to accept the resignation of Kelsey Andres as school counselor per her letter received on 8/24/2021. *Note, she was held to her position until 9/10/2021 in order to train and employ her replacement, Cassandra Davis.

A vote upon the motion resulted as follows: Director Clay, yea; Grahek, yea; Meadows, yea; Neill, yea; Rittenhouse, yea; Tanner, yea; and Dawson, yea. There being seven yeas and no nays, the President declared the motion carried.

**BRANDON GRANATO
RESIGNS FROM
MARCLAY**

Director Neill moved and Director Grahek seconded the approval to accept the resignation of Brandon Granato as a 4th grade teacher at Marclay Elementary effective note, Mr. Granato has been held to his position until bids are awarded and replacements are secured.

A vote upon the motion resulted as follows: Director Clay, yea; Grahek, yea; Meadows, yea; Neill, yea; Rittenhouse, yea; Tanner, yea; and Dawson, yea. There being seven yeas and no nays, the President declared the motion carried.

**ANGEL CLARK
HIRED AS
SPECIAL EDUCATION
TEACHER**

Director Neill moved and Director Grahek seconded the approval to hire Angel Clark as a special education teacher at Benjamin Franklin Elementary, Step 2 Bachelors, per the terms and conditions set forth by the U.A.E.A.

A vote upon the motion resulted as follows: Director Clay, yea; Grahek, yea; Meadows, yea; Neill, yea; Rittenhouse, yea; Tanner, yea; and Dawson, yea. There being seven yeas and no nays, the President declared the motion carried.


Jaclyn S. Blackson, Board Secretary

**UNIONTOWN AREA SCHOOL DIRECTOR
Regular Meeting of October 4, 2021**

U.A.C.A. CYBER ATTENDANCE POLICIES APPROVED Director Grahek moved and Director Clay seconded the approval of the attendance procedures for U.A.C.A. Cyber as presented.

A vote upon the motion resulted as follows: Director Clay, yea; Grahek, yea; Meadows, yea; Neill, yea; Rittenhouse, yea; Tanner, yea; and Dawson, yea. There being seven yeas and no nays, the President declared the motion carried.

DOUGLAS WRIGHT STUDENT COUNCIL REP AT B.F. Director Neill moved and Director Clay seconded the approval for Douglas Wright to serve as student council representative at Benjamin Franklin for the 2021-2022 school term per the terms and conditions set forth by the U.A.E.A.


A vote upon the motion resulted as follows: Director Clay, yea; Grahek, yea; Meadows, yea; Neill, yea; Rittenhouse, yea; Tanner, yea; and Dawson, yea. There being seven yeas and no nays, the President declared the motion carried.

RICH FRANKS VOLUNTEER BASKETBALL COACH Director Neill moved and Director Clay seconded the approval for Rich Franks to serve as a volunteer Head Basketball Coach for Middle School for the 2021-2022 school term per the terms and conditions set forth by the U.A.E.A.

A vote upon the motion resulted as follows: Director Clay, yea; Grahek, yea; Meadows, yea; Neill, yea; Rittenhouse, yea; Tanner, yea; and Dawson, yea. There being seven yeas and no nays, the President declared the motion carried.

STEVE JACOBS ASSISTANT COACH GIRLS' VARSITY SOCCER Director Neill moved and Director Clay seconded the approval for Steve Jacobs to serve as Assistant Coach for Girls' Varsity Soccer for the 2021-2022 school term per the terms and conditions set forth by the U.A.E.A.

A vote upon the motion resulted as follows: Director Clay, yea; Grahek, yea; Meadows, yea; Neill, yea; Rittenhouse, yea; Tanner, yea; and Dawson, yea. There being seven yeas and no nays, the President declared the motion carried.


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**UNIONTOWN AREA SCHOOL DIRECTOR
Regular Meeting of October 4, 2021**

**AUBREY MARTIN
ASSISTANT
VOLLEYBALL
COACH**

Director Neill moved and Director Clay seconded the approval for Aubrey Martin to serve as Assistant Volleyball Coach at U.H.S. for the 2021-2022 school term per the terms and conditions set forth by the U.A.E.A.

A vote upon the motion resulted as follows: Director Clay, yea; Grahek, yea; Meadows, yea; Neill, yea; Rittenhouse, yea; Tanner, yea; and Dawson, yea. There being seven yeas and no nays, the President declared the motion carried.


**HARRY KAUFMAN
ACCEPTS SECOND
CONTRACT AS
ATHLETIC EVENTS
MANAGER**

Director Neill moved and Director Clay seconded the approval for Harry Kaufman to serve as an Athletic Events Manager per the terms and conditions set forth by the U.A.E.A. * Note this is a duplicate EDR with differing roles. Director Grahek asked for clarification on the roles. Dr. Machesky said it's an existing position in the contract that wasn't fulfilled by another individual, he will be fulfilling different roles at different times.

A vote upon the motion resulted as follows: Director Clay, yea; Grahek, yea; Meadows, yea; Neill, yea; Rittenhouse, yea; Tanner, yea; and Dawson, yea. There being seven yeas and no nays, the President declared the motion carried.

**STREAMING OPTIONS
FOR BOARD MEETINGS
DISCUSSED**

Dr. Bosnic spoke to Miss Marzano who is a teacher at the school and has a streaming option that we have available through the district. It could then be shared on You-Tube. Dr. Machesky asked if it could be live streamed as well. Dr. Bosnic said that feature is available with no cost. If there are parent questions, they would have to be submitted prior to the meeting. This item will be added to the November agenda for voting.


Jaclyn S. Blackson, Board Secretary

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Regular Meeting of October 4, 2021**

**CHAMPION
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
AGREEMENT** Director Tanner moved and Director Grahek seconded the approval for the agreement for bussing between U.A.S.D. and Champion Christian School as presented.

A roll call vote upon the motion resulted as follows: Director Clay, yea; Grahek, yea; Meadows, yea; Neill, yea; Rittenhouse, abstain; Tanner, yea; and Dawson, yea. There being six yeas and one abstention, the President declared the motion carried.

**FACT
TRANSPORTATION** Director Tanner moved and Director Grahek seconded the recommend approval of the contract between U.A.S.D. and Fayette Area Coordinated Transportation (FACT) as presented.

A roll call vote upon the motion resulted as follows: Director Clay, yea; Grahek, yea; Meadows, yea; Neill, yea; Rittenhouse, abstain; Tanner, yea; and Dawson, yea. There being six yeas and one abstention, the President declared the motion carried.

**DRIVERS
ADDITIONS
APPROVED** Director Tanner moved and Director Grahek seconded the recommended approval to add the following drivers to the 2021-2022 school Term:
a.) Ronni Shuler- Spade
b.) Clarence Pierce – Rittenhouse

A vote upon the motion resulted as follows: Director Clay, yea; Grahek, yea; Meadows, yea; Neill, yea; Rittenhouse, yea; Tanner, yea; and Dawson, yea. There being seven yeas and no nays, the President declared the motion carried.

I.U. **No Report**

C.T.I. REPORT Director Grahek reported that enrollment is holding steady and the shops are up and running.

P.S.B.A **No Report**



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Regular Meeting of October 4, 2021**

SUPERINTENDENT'S REMARKS **No Report**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gena White, Franklin Township, questioned the quarantining protocols and alternative resources for parents of children who are under quarantine. She would like to see the board, teachers, administrators and parents discuss these issues.

Dr. Melissa Schell, Markleysburg, pleaded to the board that live-streaming while students in front of you and at home is not effective. The content and delivery cannot be met as its two separate jobs with one person. She expressed thanks to our teachers for everything they've done with the limited resources they have. She asked to go on record saying, "I would never, ever recommend that live-streaming be a part of any classroom ever again." She feels that there needs to be other supports for the students at home. She also asked if there would be a pushback of wearing a face shield vs. masks. Dr. Machesky confirmed that there would not. She also stated that there was confusion in the mountain schools regarding the date that the mask order would go into effect. The misinformation caused some students to be turned away as some parents didn't realize it was the day they must wear mask. She asked for an investigation and apology as to why and how this happened as it was very stressful. Dr. Machesky apologized on behalf of the district.

Mrs. White asked what would happen if a child came to school without a mask after Oct. 11, 2021. Dr. Machesky said the child would not be permitted in school. She then asked how long they would not be allowed into the school in which he replied "until the mask order is lifted or until they wear a mask."


Jaelyn S. Blackson, Board Secretary

UNIONTOWN AREA SCHOOL DIRECTOR
Regular Meeting of October 4, 2021

Stephanie Plume, Farmington, asked questions regarding the mask protocols and wanted to know if the students would receive a new clean mask everyday as the district has received money to pay for protective equipment. Dr. Machesky stated that the request is unrealistic daily and that they money is spent to purchase cleaning products, masks, face shields, filtration systems.

Philecia Varndell, Chalk Hill, also questioned the mask protocol and asked why parents are responsible for buying masks when the district has received funding for Covid necessities. She doesn't feel that wearing the same mask for 7+ hours is healthy.

Director Tanner asked if a child shows up without a mask, we would give them one. Dr. Machesky said yes.

Keith Sproul, Farmington, thanked the board for listening to concerns at the last meeting and personally apologized to the board for losing his temper and to those he directly made comments to. He commended the board for not shutting the audience down and being courteous. He asked if religious exemptions would be accepted as his daughter's doctor has not got back to them. His expressed his Christian Faith and feels they should not be denied. Attorney Brungo announced to the board and audience the recent release of religious exemptions being available and will share this information with current Administration to put on the district web-page the following day.

Dr. Machesky noted that we're trying our best to engage both sides of the mask debate and will offer as many options as possible to accommodate our families.


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The \$11 million ESSER funding was questioned by Mr. Varndell, Dr. Machesky said it's given in shifts and can show an itemized list of where it has been spent.

Megan Feather, Farmington, asked for clarification regarding medical exemptions and if a 504 had to be completed. Dr. Machesky said she can have one if she likes. Attorney Brungo said it will depend on the information that the Dr. provides to the district.

Mrs. Varndell asked if we would question the Dr. notes and deny a 504, would it void the medical mask exemption. Director Dawson said it would just be documented if a 504 was turned down but the doctors notes would suffice for the mask exemption.

Director Tanner and Dr. Machesky discussed the scenario if a child doesn't have their medical exemption yet but are in the process, we will honor the exemption on a case by case basis and the principals will be notified.

ADJOURN

Director Grahek moved and Director Clay moved for the meeting to adjourn at 7:40 p.m.

A vote upon the motion resulted as follows: Director Clay, yea; Grahek, yea; Meadows, yea; Neill, yea; Rittenhouse, yea; Tanner, yea; and Dawson, yea. There being seven yeas and no nays, the President declared the motion carried.



Jaclyn S. Blackson, Board Secretary