

**Union Area School District**  
New Castle, Pennsylvania  
Public Board Meeting  
Union Area Board of School Directors

The Union Area Board of School Directors met in public session on May 15, 2024 in the Middle/High School Board Room for a Regular Meeting. The following persons were in attendance:

**Board Members:**

Mr. Arin Biondi  
Dr. Michael Hink  
Ms. Debra Allebach  
Mr. John Bertolino  
Mr. Jay Cole  
Ms. Roxanne Exposito  
Mr. Chaz Macri  
Mr. Richard Mangino  
Ms. Valarie Peoples

**Administrators:**

Dr. Michael Ross, Superintendent  
Dr. Scott O'Donnell, Director of Curriculum  
Mr. Robin Nogay, MS/HS Principal  
Ms. Linda J. O'Neil, Elementary Principal  
Ms. Samantha Laverty, Business Mgr. /Board Sec

**Media:** New Castle News

**Solicitor:** Mr. Lou Perrotta, Esq.

**Board Not Present:** 0

**Public:** Elementary Student Council

---

**Call to Order**

Biondi called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Biondi requested those in attendance to join in the salute to the flag at 6:30 P.M.

**Executive Session 6:30 PM**

Biondi announced that the Union Area School Board will meet in executive session for the purposes of resignation, real estate, personnel hiring, and confidential legal matter. Executive Session ended at 7:20 PM.

**Public Comment on Agenda Items (7:20 PM)**

Biondi called for public comment. There was none.

**Student Council Report (7:21 PM)**

The Union Elementary Student Council presented to the board the 2023-2024 school year fundraising events, plans for the last week of school, and various charity work they have been doing.

**Informational Items (7:28 PM)**

- A. Commencement Update – May 30, 2024 at 7:30 PM – Stadium
- B. Budget Update – S. Laverty

**Operations 7:35 PM**

Allebach moved approve the following consent operational agenda items as listed:

- A. Approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on April 17, 2024.
- B. Approve the Financial Report and Treasurer's Report dated April 30, 2024.
- C. Approve the Purchase Order List from April 15, 2024 through May 14, 2024 in the amount of \$23,821.97
- D. Approve the checklist from April 18, 2024 through May 15, 2024 in the amount of \$274,248.08.
- E. Approve the April 30, 2024 High School Financials Reports for the Athletic Fund, Letterman's Fund, and Student Activities as presented.
- F. Approve the Cafeteria Invoice dated May 7, 2024 in the amount of \$45,693.03.

Exposito seconded (9 yes). The motion carried.

Mangino moved to adopt the Proposed Final Budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, be advertised, and put on display in the office of the Superintendent for the required thirty days as per Section 687 PA School Code, as amended, that the proposed and/or amended budget be formally adopted with possible changes on June 19, 2024 and that the millage

for the Union Area School District be proposed at 15.8 mills (No Increase) for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. The proposed budget is \$13,833,374. Hink seconded (2 yes, 7 No – Mangino, Macri, Cole, Allebach, Peoples, Exposito, Biondi). The motion did not carry.

Mangino motioned to adopt the Proposed Final Budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, be advertised, and put on display in the office of the Superintendent for the required thirty days as per Section 687 PA School Code, as amended, that the proposed and/or amended budget be formally adopted with possible changes on June 19, 2024 and that the millage for the Union Area School District be proposed at 17.01 mills for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. The proposed budget is \$13,982,142. Macri seconded (7 yes, 2 No – Hink, Bertolino). The motion carried.

Allebach moved to approve the 2024-2025 Homestead/Farmstead Resolution (Property Tax Reduction), as presented. Peoples seconded (9 yes). The motion carried.

Hink moved to reenact without substantial change, the following resolutions imposing the following taxes for the 2024-2025 fiscal year:

- A. A Per Capita Tax of \$5 per person on all residents of the district over 18 years of age under the authority of Section 679, PA School Code, as amended.
- B. A tax of 1% on wage and net profits earned by every resident of the district under the authority of Act 511.
- C. A Per Capita Tax of \$5 per person on every resident of the district over 18 years of age under the authority of Act 511.
- D. A \$5 annual Occupational Privilege Tax to be imposed and levied on each individual engaged in occupation within the corporate limits of the Union Area School District, under the authority of Act 511.
- E. A tax of 1% on all transfers of real estate under the authority of Act 511.

Mangino seconded (9 yes). The motion carried.

Cole moved to approve Commonwealth Bank of PA, Union Township Office, as a depository for the funds of the Cafeteria, High School Activities, Athletic, and Letterman's Club account for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Allebach seconded (9 yes). The motion carried.

Hink moved to name First Commonwealth Bank as the depository and Treasurer for the General Fund and Payroll Fund Accounts of the Union Area School District for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Bertolino seconded (9 yes). The motion carried.

Allebach moved to approve Attorney Louis Perrotta to serve as the Union Area School District Solicitor for the 2024-2025 fiscal year at a rate of \$125 (No Increase) per hour and no retainer. Mangino seconded (9 yes). The motion carried.

Mr. Biondi thanks Mr. Lou Perrotta for his services and dedication to the Board.

Allebach moved to approve the LERTA Application for residential abatement in accordance to the LERTA resolution for Mr. & Mrs. Dave Prestopine of 3781 West Washington Street, New Castle, PA 16101 in the amount of approximately \$350,000 or building assessment per county. Exposito seconded (9 yes). The motion carried.

Bertolino moved to approve the disposal of three baby grand pianos, effective May 15, 2024. Cole seconded (9 yes). The motion carried.

Hink moved to approve the Agreement between Infocon Corporation and Union Area School District for the 2024 Tax Processing Services as presented. Peoples seconded (9 yes). The motion carried.

Hink moved to approve the 2024-2025 Lawrence County Career and Technical Center's Budget of \$7,484,155 (increase of \$377,734) (operating cost for schools of \$5,731,000 which is an increase of \$235,755 from prior year). Mangino seconded (6 yes, 3 No – Biondi, Macri, & Bertolino). The motion carried.

Allebach moved to approve the FID Application for the 2024-2025 school year. Exposito seconded (9 yes). The motion carried.

Cole moved to approve the State Facility Grant Resolution for Boiler Repair in the amount of \$1,220,000 (District Contribution of \$305,000) as presented. Mangino seconded (9 yes). The motion carried.

Peoples moved to approve the agreement with DePaul School for Hearing & Speech for contracted services for the 2024-2025 school year as presented. Exposito seconded (9 yes). The motion carried.

Mangino moved to approve the reimbursement of \$50 to Jackie Patton of 48 Shenango Road, New Castle, PA 16101 for the past 5 years per capita tax that was incorrectly paid. Peoples seconded (9 yes). The motion carried.

Mangino moved to approve the Lawrence County exonerations as presented. Peoples seconded (9 yes). The motion carried.

Allebach moved to approve the facility request made by the Lawrence County Crusaders for the Varsity Baseball Field – Colt Summer Baseball games & practices from June 3, 2024 through July 21, 2024 as presented. Exposito seconded (8 yes, 1 – Abstain – Biondi). The motion carried.

### **Personnel Agenda Items (7:56 PM)**

Allebach moved to hire Kristalyn Anderson as a full time Art Teacher in accordance to the UAEA Agreement Step 1, effective August 19, 2024 and pending receipt of all proper paperwork. Peoples seconded (9 yes). The motion carried.

Macri moved to hire Mr. Jonathan Young as Co-Head/Assistant Varsity Volleyball Coach at a stipend of \$2,600 for the 24-25 school year, pending receipt of all proper paperwork. Macri seconded (9 yes). The motion carried.

Allebach moved to approve the attached list of the summer custodians and paid in accordance with the Local Laborers #964 Agreement, effective June 3, 2024. Exposito seconded (9 yes). The motion carried.

Allebach moved to approve time off without pay for Ms. Tasha Pascarella on Friday, May 17, 2024. Peoples seconded (9 yes). The motion carried.

Peoples moved to accept the resignations of Ms. Alyssa Trocci from Middle School Track Coach, effective June 1, 2024. Mangino seconded (9 yes). The motion carried.

Exposito moved to accept the resignations of Mr. Jake Trinca from Middle School Track Coach, effective May 10, 2024. Allebach seconded (9 yes). The motion carried.

Mangino moved to accept the resignation of Mr. Gary Boron from Van Driver, effective May 31, 2024. Peoples seconded (9 yes). The motion carried.

Dr. Ross thanks Gary Boron for his dedication and commitment to the District.

### **New Business (8:02 PM)**

Mr. Biondi called for new business at 8:02 PM.

Mr. Nogay updated the Board on spring 2024 Sports. There was no other new business brought before the Board.

### **Adjourn**

Hink moved to adjourn the regular Meeting of the Union Area School Board at 8:17 PM. Allebach seconded (9 yes). The motion carried.