BOARD NOTES

To help aid in communication, we were asked to post some notes of what took place at each board meeting. These are not the official meeting minutes, as they will be approved at the next board meeting. These, however, are the running notes from each meeting.

Meeting Date: August 18, 2025
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Utica High School

The meeting in August is a regular business meeting. The board started on time at 6:00 p.m. with all in attendance. Mr. Hartley recognized the entire staff for a great first day of school. Mr. Hartley reported on the middle school water leak. A company came in to narrow down where the leak is. The maintence team will do their best to cause little disruption to the school day. The hot water tank in the middle school was replaced as well. Mrs. Breehl announced that the community donated over $7000.00 towards the Newton Elementary Playground Project.

Mrs. Atherton reported on the finance committee. They discussed that a three-year and a five-year forecast are being created. State law will only require a three-year. Another state law mandates that administrative expenses, including salaries and benefits, cannot exceed 15% of the budget. In Fiscal year 2024, we were at 14.76%. The treasurer, Kellie Breehl, is in the process of reviewing the category to stay compliant. Currently, we have a records clerk salary out of this same category, and it does not need to be. Mrs. Atherton reported on the Strategic Planning Committee as well and expressed the need for the staff and community survey to be completed. This will be up until at least October 8, after the community meetings. Mrs. Paxton updated on the communications meeting. They discussed reviewing staff webpages and updating, the Utica Homecoming parade and participation from our clubs and teams.

In the consent agenda, the Board approved the Licking County ESC Substitute List No.3 for the 25/26 school year. Kenneth Polland was approved as an intervention specialist; accepted a letter of resignation from Kim Ward, food service cashier, for retirement, and approved Lisa DesJardins in the position of food service cashier.

In the finance consent agenda, the board acted on the financial and reconciliation reports, payment of bills for July 2025, payment of bills with “Then and Now” certificates, and purchase orders. They authorized the treasurer and superintendent to issue purchase orders in accordance with Board Policy 6400. Lastly, they approved the transfers of the class funds to the correct accounts: Freshman to Sophomore $2678.53, Sophomore to Junior $1418.49 and Junior to Senior $7897.87.

In other board action, the board approved Farrah Cooperider as a volunteer for the 2025-2026 school year, a contract with EMS, LINQ, INC was approved, and bus routes for the 25/26 school year were approved. A trip to Myrtle Beach, SC, was approved for the UHS baseball team, and an agreement with Go4 for athletic trainer services for the 2025-2026 school year was approved.

In Board Discussion, Mrs. Atherton asked if the youth football program still intends to practice and have games at the high school. It was earlier discussed that they would move back to south end park with the hopes of the new lights and a scoreboard. Mr. Hartly will reach out to the league on this and report back to the board.

The meeting concluded at 6:30 p.m. The next regular meeting is on September 15, 2025, at Newton Elementary School at 5:30 p.m. for building tour and 6:00 p.m. meeting start.