

# MINUTES

## UDHS Home & School Association

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*Date | time* April 14, 2021 @7:02pm | *Meeting called to order by* Jamie Santora, President

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### In Attendance

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Jamie Santora, President; Allison McConnell, Vice President; Ed Troy, Treasurer; Bill Caughlan, Secretary; Kelley Simone, Principal; Jill Palladino, UDHS Assistant Principal; Stephanie Sitek, Assistant Principal Senior Class; Tish Mejias, UDHS teacher; Dr. Daniel McGarry, UD School District Superintendent; Dr. Greg Manfre, Director of Secondary Education; Aaronda Beauford, UD School District Director of Communications; Edward W. Brown, UDSD School Board President; David Neill, UDSD School Board Member, and 12 UDHS parents.

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### Approval of Minutes

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A motion to waive the reading of the meeting minutes from March was put forth by Bill Caughlan, seconded by Jamie Santora, and passed.

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### President's Message

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Jamie Santora welcomed everyone and introduced the meeting's special guest, UD School District Superintendent Dr. Daniel McGarry.

Dr. McGarry announced that he was visiting all of the Home & School Associations district wide, in order to give updates in relation to the District's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### Update Highlights:

- To open schools, vaccination clinics, staffed by UDSD employees and volunteer nurses. Over 2 weekends they vaccinated 1800 people. They soon start vaccinating kids 16 and older. So far, 419 kids have volunteered to get the vaccination. The school has over 2000 in that age bracket, they'd like to see more volunteer.
- He reiterated that staff getting the vaccine does not mean things are back to normal. One day recently there were 66 teachers out sick. Schools are closing because of unsafe behaviors at schools. He does not want to see that here.
- The local health department stopped doing contact tracing a while ago. UDSD now does it. It has become a full-time job in the district. They are finding that people in the community are still engaging in unsafe practices. If going back to school is going to work we need to engage in safe practices.
- Relating to social distancing they can accommodate more kids since it is safe to have kids 3 ft. apart as long as they are masked. However, there can be no lunch in the cafeteria, as kids need to be 6ft apart while they are eating. This is not possible, so lunches will need to be brought home.
- He stated that he is often asked why the schools in UDSD are not fully opened with full activities like they are in other suburban communities. He says we are not like other communities. We have 14 schools with over 12,000 students. We cannot have activities with that number of kids.
- Next year a choice will be given to have instruction be in-person or virtual. Once the choice is made that is what it will be for the year. No more hybrid.
- He gives a shout out to nurses who have volunteered to give vaccinations. Did for free.

- Next he addressed extracurricular activities. If a club, sport, or activity wants to start up, they need to put together a health plan together. If they have one that is acceptable they can resume. A health plan was put together for kids in music, but kids did not seem interested, so it was dropped. For the spring play, the kids agreed to rapid antigen testing, that is why that is happening. Summer stage will happen as staff will be rapid testing.
- Facilities: updates on Aronomink and Clifton Heights was discussed. Cardington property is being looked at as a site for a new elementary school. They are talking with the community. They are in t process of renovating Landsdowne Ave transportation building to include UDSD Offices. It will still be the transportation building. Legal battles over a middle school in Clifton Heights continues. He made the point that all middle school kids would have been able to return if we had the third middle school. Beverly Hills and Drexel Hill Middle Schools will get new turf fields and tracks. Kids deserve this. Bathrooms are being updated gradually in all the schools.
- The district is getting \$55 million to help with ongoing projects. \$7 million has to be used to close achievement gap – he spoke of how that money will be spent. He’s going to go to each school to find out how parents would like to see how the rest is spent. They would need to be spent on infrastructure projects too.
- Over 100 teachers said they’d teach summer school. This is unprecedented and he is grateful for this.
- Discussed a visit recent by the US Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona over spring break. It went very well he spoke with teachers, administrators, etc. CNN contacted SD about it. We are attracting media attention! It sounds like they might come soon to do story on the high school.

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## Budget

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UDHS Home & School Association Treasurer Ed Troy reported that some money came in from fundraising raffle. The account stands at \$13,500.

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## Committee Reports

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- The H & S Board will soon have a plan for staff appreciation event.

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## New Business

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- Question about caps and gowns, when delivered. They will be handed out on May 10, 2021.
- Nominations full slate of options. Jamar Alston for Treasurer nominated, for treasurer. Second by Allison passed. We need to recruit. Spread the word.
- Nomination do not need to be in person. A motion seconded for this.

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## Principal's Update

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Principal Simone presented her report:

- Starting Monday, April 19, students will be able to come to school every day. The bell schedule will not change. If students choose to com, the must come in every day.
- All kinds of testing coming up: PSAT 10 for those who signed up and MAP testing. AP tests start May 3 thru 25, Keystones will be held May 17-25. All of these dates will be sent out via email and viewed in Parent Portal.
- There will be asynchronous learning on some testing days.

- April 21<sup>st</sup> UDHS will hold a virtual spring open house. Information can be found in Parent Portal.
- Honor Society ceremonies will be virtual this year.
- College and career days were this week. A virtual career day will be held next week.
- Teacher appreciation Day is May 3.
- May 1 is deadline for changing classes roster

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### Next Meeting

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May 12, 2021, Via Zoom and/or You Tube

A motion to adjourn the meeting was put forth by Bill Caughlan, seconded by Allison McConnell, and passed.