

TOWNSHIP OF UNION BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Board Retreat - March 16, 2024

NOTICE OF MEETING:

TO ALL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS:

The special meeting (Board Retreat) of the Board of Education of the Township of Union was held on Saturday, March 16, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at the Sol at Vermella Union, 4 Vermella Way, Union, New Jersey, pursuant to the notice sent to each member.

Ms. Santana called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:

Ms. Dixiana Carbonell, Mr. Michael Cohan, Mrs. Elsie Conteh-Mackey, Mr. Ronnie McDowell, Mrs. Nancy Minneci, Mr. Greg Nasta, Ms. Chastity Santana, Mrs. Kimberly Scott-Hayden

ABSENT AT ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Mary Lynn Williams

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Dr. Gerald Benaquista, Dr. Gretel Perez, Mrs. Yolanda Koon

Mrs. Conteh-Mackey led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Conteh-Mackey read the district's mission statement.

Mrs. Koon read the statement required under the "Open Public Meetings Act" that adequate notice was published in The Union County Local Source, The Star Ledger and/or Tap into Union, posted in the Administration Building and the Clerk's Office of the Township; a copy of which is on file in the office of the Board Secretary.

COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC:

None present.

The following were discussed at the Board Retreat:

1. Realignment:
 - Ronnie McDowell and Elsie Conteh-Mackey - co-chairs
 - Goals for the realignment
 - Effective date: the start of the 2025-2026 school year.
 - Community Night: Voice of the Community
 - Positive and Negative Impacts
 - Other:

- District map breaking down the student/school, Special Education/non-special education, and demographic breakdown.
 - BHES Special Education Programs throughout the district
 - LES/WES/JES impacts
 - Capital Plan - Development over time
 - Community-Based Schools - NEA (building effective community schools)
 - Gather information, research-based, tap into others that transitioned
2. Board Goals
- District mission statement, vision, core beliefs
1. Superintendent Goals
- Literacy
 - Security/safety
3. Strategic Planning
- 12-Month Process 2024-2025 SY
 - Community Meetings
 - Staff Meetings
 - Identify the Hot Topics/Areas (i.e. Facilities, Curriculum, Fiscal, Athletics/Extra Curriculum, Safety & Security)
 - 5-7 Meetings per Topic during the 12 months
 - Data to be used to support Referendum; outlining process (meetings, information gathering)
 - Profile of a Graduate
4. Other
- Bring all the students that made a difference and celebrate the students as a board.
 - Red Carpet Affair for the return of staff (celebrate staff)
5. Action items
- Realignment – Special meetings one time a month on Saturday
 - Workshop: UPD, Mayor and Business Administrator
 - Strategic Plan Summer 2024

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the Board in public session it was moved by Mrs. Conteh-Mackey, seconded by Mrs. Scott-Hayden, that the meeting be adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

AYE: Ms. Carbonell, Mr. Cohan, Mrs. Mackey, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Minneci, Mr. Nasta,
Mrs. Scott-Hayden, Ms. Santana

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Yolanda Koon

YOLANDA KOON
BOARD SECRETARY