

TOWNSHIP OF UNION BOARD OF EDUCATION
WORKSESSION MINUTES – JUNE 13, 2017

The worksession meeting was held at the James Caulfield Administration Building, 2369 Morris Avenue, Union, New Jersey at 7:00 p.m. on June 13, 2017. Action was taken.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. McDowell at 7:10 p.m.

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:

Mr. Ron McDowell, Mrs. Nancy Minneci, Mr. Jeffrey Monge, Mr. Vito Nufrio, Mrs. Nellis Regis-Darby, Mrs. Mary Lynn Williams, Mrs. Nancy Zuena

ABSENT AT ROLL CALL:

Mr. David Arminio, Dr. Guy Francis (arrived at 8:25 p.m.)

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

Mr. Gregory Tatum, Mrs. Annie Moses, Mr. Gerry Benaquista, Mr. Gregory Brennan, Mr. Barry Loessel, Mrs. Ann Hart, Mrs. Sandra Paul

Mr. Loessel led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Brennan read the statement required under the “Open Public Meetings Act”, a copy of which is on file in the office of the Secretary.

Mr. McDowell stated there will be several resolutions that we will be voting on. When the committees are giving their resolutions today, if you would like to highlight, you can do so at that time.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON RESOLUTIONS IN BOLD:

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes will be approved at next week’s meeting

COMMUNICATIONS:

These are typical communications for requests, leaves and resignations.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

Mr. Tatum stated before I give an abbreviated report, this is a great time for Mrs. Zuena to read our Mission Statement. Mrs. Zuena stated we are going to make this part of every meeting. Mr. Nufrio stated what would be nice at every meeting, that each Board member have an opportunity to read it.

Mrs. Zuena asked Mrs. Patricco who was sitting in the audience if she would like to read it since she was at the meeting when this was approved and you were part of it. Mr. Tatum stated she was the originator of it.

It was decided that the Mission Statement be read after the Open Public Meetings Act.

Mary Ann Patricco read the Mission Statement.

Mr. Tatum stated next week we are going to honor the teachers of the year. Mr. Benaquista will notify them. We had the breakfast with them at Kean. Also any retirees for the remainder of the school year and a summary of the school year regarding our programs and accomplishments.

A couple of months ago we talked about the changing of the leave replacements from a regular teacher salary when they are here for a number of months to a \$301 a day stipend and this was initiated by Mr. Benaquista. To date he has reported to me that we saved a total of \$58,394 just by virtue of scaling that down. I am glad that Gerry brought that to my attention because sometimes we do things and we make it procedural and I think Vito you were involved with this too when this was done. We checked it out with Paul's office to see if we should actually go that way. Another nice piece of money that has been saved and be allocated for other things we need in the District. Nice job Gerry for that idea and the Personnel Committee for putting that together.

Mr. Nufrio stated being it is a long-term replacement, once you get to a certain number of days, something else kicks in. Mr. Tatum stated correct. We have so many of those that the per diem piece – that is a whole different story once you get to a certain point and it becomes a salary. What we were doing after three months they were getting the full salary and it really isn't required at that point. It is something that is noteworthy. Keep up the good work Gerry and thank you.

EDUCATION/STUDENT DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS:

Mrs. Regis-Darby stated a committee update on the summer learning camps – K-2 another class needs to be opened. Mr. Tatum stated that is good news. Mrs. Regis-Darby stated parents will be notified next week for the kids that have been accepted into the program. We also have kids on the waiting list. We have 63 students for the bridge program.

Criteria for the Honors AP Math, ELA, Science and Social Studies – the new criteria will be implemented for the 2017-2018 school year. We have looked at it and it gives the kids a fair opportunity to get placed into those classrooms. We should all take a look at it because it is a point system and the kids will know what they have to earn in order to get into those classes.

The novel requirements for the 2017-2018 school year has been updated. Some books have been taken off the list and added to the list – good choices and correlated with what the kids have to read for the year and the standards.

The Big East Book Company – we are taking a look at that and when we have more information, we will bring it back to the Board this year.

Mrs. Regis-Darby presented the Education/Student Discipline Committee agenda.

E-7 is all the curriculum guides so maybe you can take a look at that. We are doing a good job to align them to the standards.

Mr. Tatum stated we talked with different teachers about the curriculum – Annie and Sandra Paul, and when one of the teachers was talking about how the curriculum is developed and some of the concerns that they have and she mentioned that they partnered with Bed Bath & Beyond which is someone we partnered with last year and there was some entrepreneurial ship going on today – a lemonade sale. As we revise the curriculum they try to do more tangible things and I thought it was great.

Mrs. Minneci stated is there a way to see where the changes are – this was added this was deleted. Mrs. Moses stated right now they are not out. You can look at what is there now and you will see what is going to go up. There are a lot of changes. Mr. Tatum stated some of the curriculum dictates the procedures that we use which is something that you wouldn't see. We had a conversation this morning – you see all the different changes that go on – for example GT and the history requirements which may be different and aligned differently than what we have. Also incorporates what we physically do that relates to the changes and also sometimes it is mandated.

Mr. Monge stated I see it says PARCC and PARCC equivalent test – what is that? Mrs. Regis-Darby stated if a child doesn't take PARCC, then they would have a different assessment to take that the teacher will give but the teacher will not create the assessment to give to the child. Mr. Monge asked who creates the assessment? Mrs. Regis-Darby stated we have the system Ed Connect and they can create the test and they are standard based questions. Mr. Monge asked how comparable is it? Mrs. Regis-Darby stated it's comparable because it is all on the standards and the PARCC is standardized and it is comparable. If you are in the third grade you are going to get a third grade math standard to match the questions. Mr. Monge stated so the kids that take that type of test, the grade is going to be compared to other kids that took that same test. Mrs. Moses stated we don't compare student to student. We don't do that anymore. Mr. Nufrio stated it is a standalone evaluation. Mrs. Moses stated it is standalone and it is multiple measures.

Mr. Monge stated we talked about the computer programing curriculum. I didn't see that on the list. Mrs. Moses stated computer science. That is a curriculum that comes when teachers go out for training. It is given to us by the computer science standards. Mrs. Regis-Darby stated my understanding between this curriculum and a curriculum like that is the teachers have a book that you have from the company, the teachers will look at that and create the curriculum for that particular grade. Mrs. Moses stated it is something we have in here. Mr. Monge stated there is a State computer science curriculum. Mrs. Moses stated it is called Project Lead the Way. We send teachers out to get the special training for that. It is national. Any teacher can teach computer science because it is a combination of everything. They will be trained over the summer. They will come back with that curriculum and expand the curriculum we have here.

Mr. Monge stated we do have something in computer science today. Mrs. Moses stated last year we didn't have it and we added two and those classes are full already. Mr. Monge

asked where are they given? Mrs. Moses stated at the high school but the thought is to push it down.

Mr. Nufrio stated about the novels, I heard Mrs. Darby make reference to that – is that the chapter books? Is it summer reading? Mrs. Moses stated the novels that we are talking about are for the school year for ELA. These are aligned to the curriculum. Mr. Nufrio stated so that don't have to be scrutinized in the same manner that I insisted that were scrutinized in the past because they were selected by crazy standards. Mr. Monge stated the diversity aspect. Mrs. Moses stated they are diverse and that is what we pushed for.

Mr. Nufrio stated did I hear correctly that you don't need certification for computer science. Mrs. Moses stated there is no certification for computer science yet. Mr. Nufrio stated I can't fathom a particular teacher just jumping in. Mrs. Moses stated a teacher has to be picked by their department supervisor. Mrs. Hart stated most teachers have computer classes in the background. I use to teach AP computer classes and I'm a math major. You take the computer classes. You just don't jump into this if you don't know this. It is a strenuous training. Mr. Nufrio stated so there is oversight and it is not just you go to training and you are good to go. Mrs. Moses stated you have to go for intense training. Mrs. Hart stated you have to apply for the training first.

FISCAL AND PLANNING COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS:

Mr. Monge presented the Fiscal and Planning Committee agenda.

Mr. Monge stated we were talking about F-2 and Mr. Tatum, you and I spoke about this before. F-2 historically shows a revised budget and you have these transfers and you keep updating this revised budget but it never really relates to the original budget that we vote on. We were talking about the possibility when we close out this year we can look at what we actually voted on against the revised budget and where we end up essentially. We were talking about going forward if there was a way to be able to have F-2 in a presentation where you have the voted budget, the revised budget and everything else we end up having. Mr. Griggs stated it is a State form. You can do another form. Mr. Monge stated I think it tells a story because when we start transferring money, we can say we started off \$90 here but now it's at \$2 million with all those transfers and we should be able to make sure it is reflected in the budget that follows.

There was a question that I had on F-4 – there is a line item for district website – adjustment 00265. There was a transfer of \$10,000 into the line item but the line item totals about \$259,000 and I'm like fantastic that's a lot of money. I don't know if anyone has done plans for that line item or if it is truly an upgrade. Mrs. Hart stated it's to make the website ADA compliant. Mrs. Zuena asked why did we have to transfer money in there if we had money in there already. Mrs. Hart stated I don't know. I think it may be the wrong account. Mr. Brennan stated I will find that out tomorrow.

Mr. Monge stated maybe the explanation is the title is a bad title. When you look at the description of the dollars that are moving, it says "professional tech services" it seems like it is all under this catchment of district website design. Maybe that is the answer. Mr. Brennan stated I will find out tomorrow.

Mr. Nufrio asked why would that be anything separate and apart from what is currently being overseen by Sandra? That is just a question, it doesn't have to be answered tomorrow night. Mrs. Moses stated we looked it up from the last previous years. In previous years, it was paid out of secondary account so we had to move the money out of the secondary account and I don't know where they put the money and what I'm hearing is they put it with over \$200,000 so if money was there, that money is secondary.

Mr. Brennan stated it says "professional technical services". Mr. Tatum asked what does that mean? Mrs. Hart stated renewals. Mrs. Paul stated the renewal of all the services. Mr. Brennan stated the description here and I didn't do the transfer but it says district website design that is what is misleading. Mrs. Paul stated professional services are all our licenses for the software, all our warranties. Mr. Nufrio stated maybe you can title it better Sandra so it is clearer. Mr. Tatum stated we are meeting tomorrow and then we will have some answers.

Mr. Monge stated I'm going to jump to a general conversation that we had in our committee meeting and Mr. Griggs we are going to look to you. This is essentially for F-16 down to F-22 and to put it into context here. We talked about professional services and we are going to update our RFP's and process and the idea was that a lot of these folks we would just carry over for a second year. Before we update our RFP's we are going to put together a schedule of when these RFP's will go out and so we can select people at the right time.

Architects, engineers, lawyers – my thought was we need to get on a schedule as far as making sure that we are bidding projects at the right time of the year – being January or thereabouts so we are not late to the game. That would mean in my eyes that we would have an RFP that would conclude prior to that – at least 30 days or so to be able to let folks come in if they are new and get ready for RFP's to send out. When I see these dates on those services, then we have a date that goes from July 1st to June 30th so that is off of that type of schedule. Vito was saying he wants to make sure that we don't get ourselves into trouble if there is any State requirement/timeline that you need to engage people for. Mr. Nufrio stated there has to be some kind of timeline for bidding which we know there are sub-timelines for responding. Which services are governed by mandates as to timeframe and which are not? Mr. Griggs stated there is not really a timeline. For insurance, it usually goes within the school year. But there is no specific timeline.

In terms of RFP's for professional services, it is not a required exercise. Good practice says for the very least you do it every three years. In terms of timeline for your projects, you can set up your own timeline.

Mr. Monge stated whether it is a renewal or extension of the existing contract because a renewal to me is like you renew for a year; an extension may work as well but to get us to a point where we RFP out. I think the concept is fine but the timing is what is. Mr. Griggs stated the critical ones as far as timing goes are the architect, engineer and probably the insurance. You can pretty much prescribe it any way you want. You renew these folks, you can choose in January/February and say we are going out for RFP's and we are going to appoint whomever, it can be the same people or new people and appoint them in April and give them a one year

contract. You can do it that way. Mr. Nufrio stated you can make it April to March and that is what we needed to understand. Mr. Griggs stated there is no requirement that it be a school year. Mr. Nufrio stated I just wanted to make sure that we would be under some guidelines or mandates that prohibits that. The other thing is I'm sure none of these will be done before any reorganization meeting which takes place in January. Mr. Griggs stated correct. People serve at your will. Mr. Nufrio stated true but if you have something ending in November obviously you are not going to wait until January. You need to do it ahead of time.

Mr. Monge stated is the purpose of this – deemed to say who is representing us today? Or do we have to say renewal. Mr. Griggs stated it doesn't even have to say renewal. It can be a new contract under the same terms and conditions. For example, take the legal part of it. We can only do a one year contract. In our firm with all the Boards that we have, we only do a one year contract. We fully understand if they want to move to someone else six months down the road, that is what the Board does. What you see here – again they are serving at your will. You can go out for RFP's in October, bring them in November, award in December/January in anticipation going out for roofs, boilers and critical things because as we all know with the roofs, first come is better because you will get a better price.

Mr. Monge asked can we extend these guys to the end of the year? Mr. Griggs stated sure. Mr. Brennan stated put them on a calendar year. Mr. Monge stated why don't we do that because to your point as to reorganization, you go and do RFP's and at reorganization...Mr. Brennan stated you can leave as it is and still do an RFP. Mr. Monge stated all we have to do is revise it. That is my recommendation is to extend it to the end of the year and then that gives us an opportunity to finish up any RFP's that we talked about and putting together that calendar. We need some guidance on that calendar. You have these guys in place and you do an RFP because you want to go out for bids in January and be competitive out there but it would be great to say that these are the folks that we need to have in place for January going forward and the other folks and the insurance is a school year. Mr. Griggs stated normally it works is insurance, attorney, auditor – they are a school year. Other ones can be a calendar year.

Mr. Nufrio stated since elections went to November there are a whole new set of rules that apply. Realistically a new Board would come in April and usually that is when all the contracts were awarded and when that went to November that precept went down.

Mr. Monge stated just to repeat what we are talking about here. We would take F-18, 19, 20, at minimum, to the end of the year. Mrs. Minneci stated to clarify for me, change it to through December 31, 2017. Mr. Monge stated yes. And then you are also saying legal should be part of that. Mr. Griggs stated typically it is not, it is a school year. Mr. Monge stated so 18, 19 and 20 unless anyone else has a concern with any of the others.

The only other one that we talked about was ConnectOne. Folks that remember and I don't know if Miss Minneci and Williams – I don't think you guys were on the Board at the time, but we did an RFP and selected ConnectOne and there was a disconnect ultimately at the end of the day of what we approved – meaning their terms of their interest rate and not to over complicate things, we wanted it to flow. The rates go up, our rates go up and they read it as a different formula and it was what it was. We met with them but we told them that we were

going to take the option to RFP out after a year. Mr. Nufrio stated if you remember Mr. Vieira attended one meeting and we got them to commit to the fact that it could be month-to-month because the rate could change. We would have the option. Mr. Monge stated that one we were going to RFP out after the year was up and I told Mr. Brennan I don't think there is a rush here. Mr. Brennan stated it does really impact the Business Office in a big way. I think we should figure it out. Mr. Nufrio stated that would also impact the budget – by extending it, won't that in some way mess up your books as well. Mr. Brennan stated the operations of the Business Office – all the transfers, wire transfers and everything would have to be reset up. Mr. Monge stated it ends up being something – but right now we have a two-year agreement with them so we don't have to do anything with them right now. I don't think we need this on the agenda. If we wanted to we can choose to but it is a two-year agreement. We already have an agreement in place. Mr. Brennan stated I understand.

Mr. Nufrio stated extending extra time, won't that impact what you appropriated which would have expired otherwise June 30th. Isn't that going to be flowing into next years' expenses?

Mr. McDowell stated we have to vote on them. Mr. Monge stated the recommendation that I'm putting out is F-18 through F-20, change the date to the end of the year. We don't need 22 and everything else stays the same.

Mr. Griggs stated the only thing the Board has to do otherwise is they have to set forth the depositories and you do that during reorganization. Mr. Nufrio stated that is what I'm talking about. Mr. Griggs stated during the reorganization meeting is when you do the depositories. Mr. Brennan stated that was done in January.

Mr. Griggs stated if you have the contracts here, that is one thing, the depository is a statutory thing. If you have a two-year contract, you just have to approve the depositories at some point which you did at the reorganization meeting.

Mr. Monge stated F-23 – I'm not sure if the agreement that is with it which is F-30 – I know we get a lot in finance but I think that is more programmatic and I don't know if that should be in finance. Mr. Tatum stated it could be education too. That is an ongoing problem. That's the Dr. Goddard program and which is really education in nature because they provide a service to the students but I don't know if we are talking about a cost here Jeff and that is probably why it is in finance. Is it operations or is it finance? It could go either way.

Mr. Monge stated what you see is going to happen is the Finance Committee list is going to get longer and longer. This programmatic stuff – I would love it to go to the Education Committee and to take a look at it and see if it looks good and then we look at the cost aspect in finance. I do appreciate this year's version because there is a lot of great information in there. Mr. Tatum stated I think F-30 is education.

Mr. Monge stated F-23 stays; there were bids for the services. Mr. Tatum stated would the bids go there or Operations. Mr. Griggs stated there is a discussion about the content of that

contract – if we are approving a contract for x-amount of money for the years then it goes to finance.

Mr. Tatum stated F-23 will stay in fiscal and 30 will go to Education. Mr. Griggs is recommending 23 stay in fiscal and 30 go to Education.

Mr. Monge stated in the future, it would be great for something like that in the working meeting be in Education and discuss it here and then jump it here. Mr. Brennan stated that will make her crazy with the agenda. Mr. Monge stated sorry, that was Vito's idea. Mr. Nufrio stated that was not my idea.

Mr. Monge stated we didn't have back-up for F-25, 31, 33, 34 and 35. Mrs. Cappiello stated this is not back-up. It doesn't go on the agenda; this is just informational purposes only from Special Services. Mr. Monge stated Mr. Tatum this is what Mrs. Conti provided us which is a summary of F-34, 35, 31, but why wouldn't we have as a back-up to the actual items. Mr. Griggs stated it is the rationale; so you would. Mr. Monge stated may be then this back-up is for all of them. Mr. Tatum stated this is the rationale. Mr. Monge stated there is no back-up and this is just the rationale. Mr. Nufrio stated I think by itself is just fine. Mr. Benaquista stated under each one? Mr. Nufrio stated yes. Mr. Monge stated this speaks to a rationale not an agreement. Mr. Nufrio stated what are you looking for in back-up that this doesn't give. All this says is the name and an explanation.

Mr. Griggs stated a little history, I think this was prepared in response to your inquires historically and which should be enough to say we looked at the price. Mr. Monge stated so this is fine and so this is suffice for Mr. Tatum? Mr. Tatum stated this is suffice as long as the Board is saying they would like to see. Otherwise what would you be looking for. Mr. Nufrio stated I don't think you can go any more than this. Mr. Monge stated so that is that.

The last thing I will say on finance, and we had a conversation about this as well, and we keep on talking about special services and trying to figure and having a conversation about what is our role as Board members as it pertains to speaking to that and the point that I was trying to make is as we continue to have these contracts that we keep on approving and for the most part it is the same people. As long as you all are comfortable with the process and in my mind and I know Vito said you can't look at everything and I get that and you have to give it to someone to help make that decision but if we are looking at an opportunity to try to save money in a budget that we keep saying is getting out of control, it is to consider a process to take the top 20% of the highest contracts and maybe looking at doing them a little differently like getting bids for similar services and you are not messing around with the serves but really just look at it being competitive and get some other players to come in and offer some bids and try to see about saving money without damaging the quality of the services that we are providing.

Mr. Tatum stated there are two issues here – one is professional service and that requires x-number of quotations or whatever we have to have but the second thing is that sometimes it is emergent with IEP's. Mr. Monge stated I get that and we are not talking about that. We are talking about services and the processes that are not driven by individual needs that individual service. There are a lot of contracts. If we could take a percentage of those and have a different

approach – great; otherwise we will have the same. Mr. Tatum stated it is like a comfort zone – we start working with certain vendors and they are with us for a number of years and we have been happy with their services but are there others out there that may be able to give us a better price.

Mr. Nufrio stated I delved into just a little bit by saying there is a process and it can always be refined or modified. The process is all inclusive. If I'm the department director, I would definitely not be the only person making those recommendations, it will come from a team of people including building principals, central office, supervisors who will be the information and that part of the process and hopefully it is taking place. Because it is a single entity, or two or three then Jeff is right and that process needs to be modified. I guess that is where you come in as the Superintendent to ensure that every responsible party that is making and putting on the agendas has had some process. Mr. Tatum stated that makes sense.

Moved by Mr. Monge, seconded by Mr. Nufrio, that the following resolution be adopted:

F-9. APPROVE CONTRACTS AND/OR PURCHASES

That the Board approve the below list and attached contracts and/or purchases pursuant to the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5(21) (paid by funds raised by or collected by students), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes:

School	Account/Department	Vendor/Description	Amount
Union High School	#3335/Athletics	Cesar Vega-coach – summer volleyball camp at Kean University	\$2,500 (approx.)
Kawameeh Middle School	Principal	Jostens Yearbook – remainder due for 2016-2017 yearbooks	\$4,000.00
Union High School	#2025/A.P. Exams	College Board – pay for 2017 A.P. exams	\$18,715.00
Union High School	#2077/UHSPAC	Broadway Costumes – costume rental – Rising Star Awards performance of Cinderella	\$2,109.50
Union High School	#2097/Senior Dues	2017 Project Graduation Deposit	\$6,000.00
Union High School	#2097/Senior Dues	2017 Project Graduation payment	\$18,384.75

Mrs. Regis-Darby stated this is Board of Ed money. Mr. Monge stated this is money raised by the students. Mrs. Zuena stated it comes out of their account when they pay their senior dues and it goes in their account and we have to give them the money. Mrs. Regis-Darby stated the AP exams, the kids paid for it and then they take that money to pay it. Mr. Monge stated this is on every agenda.

DISCUSSION:

Mrs. Zuena stated senior dues that is collected - \$75 per student. All of that money goes toward project graduation? Mr. Benaquista stated cap and gowns and it use to be the senior picnic. Mrs. Zuena stated they don't have that any more. Mr. Benaquista stated they went to Great Adventure. Mrs. Zuena stated I paid for that and we paid for project graduation also. If we are paying for these events where is this money going. Mr. Tatum stated I'm paying for the buses. Mr. Benaquista stated I will find out for you and let you know.

Mr. Nufrio stated a few years ago I did suggest that these project graduations we could seek some outside funding from businesses. In Elizabeth, project graduation was done at the complex. We don't have that type of facility here and that is fine where they are going but businesses pretty much paid for everything. The kids didn't pay a dime. Mr. Tatum stated I know when we first got this off the ground, I do remember having a conversation like that and somewhere we dropped the ball. Mr. Nufrio stated it wasn't dropping the ball, maybe it wasn't practical. Mr. Tatum stated it was never pursued from what I recall. We did not pursue getting funding. First it was the PTA and then the Vice Principals that ran project graduation and we did it last minute. Then last year, another committee in the high school and somewhere in that exchange the whole idea about pursuing any other funding went by the waist side. Mr. Nufrio stated maybe next year. As far as I'm concerned it is like a parting gift to our kids and you shouldn't have to pay for that.

Mrs. Zuena stated that was my question, I'm paying the dues, the \$75, but yet I still had to pay for him to go to project graduation. Mrs. Regis-Darby asked about the food truck money. Mr. Tatum stated all the money that they raised will go into that account and it might supplement the cost. Mr. Monge stated it might be a good opportunity to work with the Chamber. Mr. Nufrio stated and the business alliance they have. There are organizations that would love to support an activity that is drug free, alcohol free and it saves lives. That was our intent when we did it in Elizabeth. It was a great event and they didn't pay a penny. All activities were supplied for and funded by outside businesses. It is a whole year project to get that done. It is not easy but it can be done.

AYE: Mrs. Minneci, Mr. Monge, Mr. Nufrio, Mrs. Regis-Darby, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Zuena,
Mr. McDowell

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS:

Mrs. Zuena stated the committee update is everything that we are voting on tonight. Mr. Loessel stated the windows in the high school, the bathrooms are not on but will be on there next week. Mrs. Zuena asked how many bathrooms? Mr. Loessel stated at least one in every school and maybe 2-3 at the high school. Mr. Monge stated that will go on the agenda for Tuesday for voting. It is not on our agenda today. Mr. Loessel stated the asbestos floors and the auditorium for Livingston. Mrs. Zuena stated that will be added for next week. Mr. Loessel stated we are also voting on EI for the HVAC for the library at the high school which is not working. We are voting on the electrical upgrade at the high school, LED lights, ceiling tiles, fire alarm and the

cameras and rejecting the bid for the door hardware. Mr. Brennan stated because it exceeds the budget.

Mrs. Zuena presented the Operations Committee agenda.

Moved by Mrs. Zuena, seconded by Mrs. Williams, that the following resolutions be adopted:

O-5. REPORT RECEIPT OF BIDS – WINDOW REPLACEMENT - UHS

Report receipt of two (2) bids for window replacement at Union High School, Burnet Middle School and Livingston Elementary School: (a) RD Architectural Products and (b) Panoramic Windows, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

O-6. REPORT RECEIPT OF BIDS – CEILING, LIGHTING, FIRE ALARM REPLACEMENT - UHS

Report receipt of seven (7) bids for ceiling, lighting and fire alarm replacement at Union High School: (a) GPC Inc., (b) Northeastern Interior, (c) Michael Riesz & Co., (d) Alna Construction, (e) Bismark Construction Corp, (f) ML Inc., and (g) Apex Ent. of Union, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

O-7. REPORT RECEIPT OF BIDS – DISTRIWIDE DOOR HARDWARE

Report receipt of one (1) bid for districtwide door hardware replacement: (a) Jersey Architectural, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

O-8. AWARD CONTRACT – GPC INC.

That the Board award contract to GPC Inc. of Millburn NJ for ceiling, lighting and fire alarm replacement at Union High School, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

O-10. APPROVE CONTRACT #2 AND CONTRACT #3 – WINDOW REPLACEMENT

That the Board approve Contract #2 – Union High School and Contract #3 – Burnet Middle School for window replacement project with Panoramic Window and Door System Inc. of Stockton, NJ, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

O-12. REJECT BID – DISTRICTWIDE DOOR HARDWARE

Reject bid received for districtwide door hardware replacement from Jersey Architectural (exceeds budget).

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Nufrio stated we talked about the windows and I think Barry gave us a picture of the window – I said the portion that is just pane, will it be tinted and he said he would look at it. Mrs. Zuena stated what we have there now is frosted. Mr. Monge asked is the new one going to be frosted? Mrs. Zuena stated it looks like everything will be frosted except for the window that will open. Mr. Nufrio stated those are the ones I'm referring to get them tinted. No. 1 for heat conservation and safety so someone from the outside can't see in and possibly do some damage.

Mrs. Zuena stated this is not our actual school. We don't have windows that low. No windows are at eye level for safety.

AYE: Mrs. Minneci, Mr. Monge, Mr. Nufrio, Mrs. Regis-Darby, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Zuena,
Mr. McDowell

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Dr. Francis arrived at the worksession meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Mr. Monge stated we missed the question on the bus thing. Mr. Loessel stated O-4. Mr. Monge stated on O-4 – the question is we are paying for a Town program for busing but we don't even pay for our kids. Mrs. Zuena stated do we provide busing to our children to our programs? Mr. Tatum stated we do not as far as I know unless it is special services. We provide the driver. Mr. Monge stated we are paying for the driver and obviously providing the buses but why can't we get reimbursed for that. We don't even provide it for the programs that we are providing. Mr. Tatum stated we will look into that but let me tell you that the program that is sponsored by the Town is for our children. What has happened over the course of the years is that we provided that service because we use one of our drivers who is full time. We have a couple of full-time drivers. It is someone we already have on salary if I recall correctly.

Mr. Monge stated Township kids but you can go to a private school. Mrs. Minneci stated but you have to live in the Town. Mr. Monge stated I get the flip side it services for the kids that we aren't paying for but it is a different way of looking at it. Mr. Tatum stated we are in the infancy of bringing in a lot of new programs in the summer time and in previous years there was almost nothing that we were sponsoring here. Mrs. Zuena stated it is only three days of using the buses and every Friday.

Mr. Nufrio stated we are about the kids so what is the big deal? Mr. Monge stated the point is I'm just making sure. Mr. Nufrio stated if kids benefit, by all means I'm in favor of it and we all are.

Mr. Tatum stated we have not had anything else going on before so we are just trying to get things off the ground now. Maybe in the future if we have programs that travel a distance and we have full time drivers down the road maybe we will look at that. Mrs. Zuena stated they are not picking them up from their homes. They only go on the three day trips and then just the Knights of Columbus. If they were picking them up door to door I could see a problem.

Mr. Monge stated I'm sorry to go back – F-27 why are we doing only a \$1 million? F-27 is whatever we have left over at the end of the year. Mr. Brennan stated if we do move more than \$1 million it will affect our revenue. Mr. Monge stated it says not in excess. If there was a larger number not to exceed, you are still coming back and making the presentation. What do you think we are going to have at the end of the year? Mr. Brennan stated as of April we showed you the Board Secretary's/Treasurer's Report and it is between \$3-4 million dollars. Mr. Monge stated so why wouldn't we make it a bigger number and then you guys come back. Mr. Brennan

stated I'm just afraid if this year's budget – we had \$6.4 million as surplus which goes right to revenue and in our thinking we will have \$3-4 million in surplus that is already \$2-3 million less than what we are going to have for revenue next year and then we move another million so it will be \$3-4. Mr. Monge stated you have revenue but you always have surplus and you are always going to need surplus as revenue then you are going to have surplus. Mr. Brennan stated remember you have to step it down gradually and that is going to be a big hole. Mr. Monge stated I know that but I'm just saying do we have to make that decision right now and I think it is a presentation that you would come back and say we want to use this amount of money. The thing is we need capital project money. Mr. Brennan stated we also need money in the general fund. Mr. Monge stated the point is if you guys come back and say here is the recommendation we want to use a million of the two. Mr. Brennan stated if you want to increase it we can increase this. Mr. Monge stated that is what I'm saying. You are going to have to come back to us anyway and this is what I want to do. Mr. Brennan stated you are going to have to approve it.

Mr. Nufrio asked Mr. Brennan why does it need approval? Isn't the money there? Mr. Brennan stated you have to approve us moving it out. It has to be approved. Mr. Nufrio asked it is unexpended from the surplus from last year? Mr. Brennan stated it is the surplus as of June 30th – whatever our undesignated fund balances is from this year. Mr. Monge stated you always need that – that is fiscal prudence. But if you have that \$2 million and you come back and say we only want to use a \$1 million. Mr. Brennan stated it gives us more flexibility is what you are saying. We will change it to \$2 million for next week.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS:

Mrs. Zuena presented the Personnel Committee agenda:

Moved by Mrs. Zuena, seconded by Mrs. Minneci, that the following resolutions be adopted:

P-13. APPROVAL TO APPOINT SECURITY OFFICERS FOR GROUND SECURITY

That the Board give approval to appoint security officers for grounds security from 10 PM on Thursday, June 22, 2017 to 7 AM on Friday, June 23, 2017 at the monitor rate of \$23.78/hour.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Nufrio asked are those our security? Mr. Tatum stated yes. Mr. Nufrio asked that is fine but why? Mrs. Zuena stated they monitor the parking lots because the kids vandalize and spray painted the school right before graduation one year. Mr. Tatum stated we do this every year. It is preventative. Mrs. Williams asked if it was our kids? Mr. Tatum stated it could have been outsiders but the whole idea is we have security there to prevent that from happening. I hope it is not our kids.

Mr. Benaquista stated years ago we did it for a week and then we got it down to overnight. Mrs. Zuena stated this goes to Friday morning. Mr. Benaquista stated that morning and then security is on the building and then during graduation security is on as well as police officers. Mr. Nufrio stated the night that they are working they are not going to be working the next day. Mr. Benaquista stated they do shifts. It is not one person throughout they will break it

up to 4-hour shifts. I have already met with Nick Ardito, Union PD, Union Fire and we really wanted to get ahead of the game especially since graduation is two days after the ending of school and gives the kids more free time. We put more emphasis on security this year.

AYE: Dr. Francis, Mrs. Minneci, Mr. Monge, Mr. Nufrio, Mrs. Regis-Darby, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Zuena, Mr. McDowell

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

POLICY COMMITTEE:

Mr. McDowell presented the Policy Committee agenda and stated final reading is next week.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Monge stated Mr. Benaquista I saw your comments on the suicide prevention one and I do have comments. It is something I can send to you and have a conversation. Mr. Benaquista stated there was a committee put together and then brought to policy. You can give me a call. Mr. Monge stated the key word in the State statute and we had a word that had to be changed because it was wrong. It said “contemplated” versus “completed” – a very big difference in words. I have gone to websites and looked at their policy and some policies are extremely different from what we have. Some policies talk about attempted and completed – what do you do? A kid tried to commit suicide or committed suicide what do you do – it was really focused on calling the authority and who you contact. We have taken that approach in our policy which is fine but very different which is talking about prevention which is above and beyond what that is.

My first question is how do we get to this very long versus a policy that is a page or two pages in some districts. How do we get to that point in trying to revise that? Mr. Tatum stated I know what you are talking about because I also reviewed several policies. One of the things that I recognize in the policy before the drafts were made was that it almost looked like the levels that we have were procedurally dependent upon a State requirement and it was completed, later I found out that it actually changed effective September 2016 and it just came into effect but most of the policies I read you see that statement on one page and the procedure is really the second page and that is it. Our policy does two things. One is suicide prevention and the other one is crisis management/intervention. I think you are talking about one policy that covers two areas. When we talk about a child needing to go out for service because he made overtures as opposed to actually contemplating and we had a discussion about that one day. That really is not necessarily crisis management – where you are actually doing something at a preventative standpoint to prevent them from taking it further. So that is a little different and I think what we are reading we are talking about the follow-up with the families with the counseling, educating the students and that’s more than suicide. Our policy covers more.

Mr. Monge stated two material things that I saw was the last sheet was the re-entry into school and it has a set form that the professional needs to fill out. I don’t know if you put that against some of the crisis centers that are in our community like Overlook – won’t take that. We

removed the one statement we talked about. Did you check with Overlook if they would allow that form? Mr. Benaquista stated when we met as a team there were people that worked in the hospital and they felt by having this form filled out, the hospital would be willing to do that because it is at the time of release. It specifically states – at the time of release the student is whatever. But as far as before when parents use to go there and say I need a statement saying he would not – they would say we can't do that. As a clinician, they said this is what the hospitals would be willing to do.

Mr. Monge stated I don't know if you doublechecked and if it is someone's opinion or someone from Overlook that said yeah we can do this. I think it would be important to parents because the first thing parents would do is go to Overlook.

The last thing I will say is the resource list. We have an asterisk on there – on one particular provider saying that this is an approved person from the Board and when you look at that resource list and I'm a parent I'm going to say oh my gosh you are basically telling me I should be going to this individual person. Mr. Tatum stated I can tell you what I recall of that Jeff. There is a caveat to that – when you have an approved list some of the providers that don't accept insurance and I think what happens is if indeed they go to that place, I think we are the ones that reimburse that provider and I think that is what it was done for. Mr. Benaquista stated the district does. Mr. Tatum stated some families unfortunately don't have the resources. Mr. Monge stated the point that I'm making is out of 20 people and by the way Overlook isn't on that list. Mr. Tatum stated that was the one place that would give us the language that they were asking for in the policy. Mr. Monge stated so ultimately what is happening is we were requesting language in a letter that no one would provide except for the one person that the Board approved as the person to go to. Mr. Nufrio stated which goes to explain how organized the State is. They put out these mandates and regulations without really foreseeing. Mr. Monge stated that is us. Mr. Nufrio stated this is still in compliance with what the State expects. Mr. Tatum stated that is something different.

What Jeff is talking about and I do understand. The idea is in our policy we have specific verbiage that we want to bring back. I have seen that in reviewing other policies in other districts. Mr. Nufrio stated they have the same concerns. Mr. Tatum stated and some don't have it in their policy and I don't think that is mandated by law – the particular verbiage that we want. When I look at Overlook for example, they have on their form the child was admitted, the child was released. If you go to a place like Overlook and they said they released a child, that says to me that they are not a danger. If I was a school administrator receiving that form from Overlook, one of the most prestigious hospitals around and saying this kid doesn't need to stay and be evaluated further, they are saying to me he is o.k. to come to school. We specifically wanted that term in there "not a danger to self and others". My argument is I can have an evaluation and classified deemed to be safe to go out and flip out. The thing is when I walked out of there I wasn't a danger but by the time I got to my car I had a different episode so now I'm a danger. I understand why putting that into writing can compromise some agencies and they backed away because there were some issues where they are liable for that. Mr. Nufrio stated for them to make a prediction.

Mr. Benaquista stated the most important thing is when a hospital releases you, they wouldn't release them if they were a danger but the more important thing is what are we doing on the backend of the school when this child does return to school. Does the child need any services? I also think we built in that the place can put some information, recommendations. When they get brought back to school, we want to make sure it doesn't happen again and that they get the support they need.

Mr. Monge stated that resource list. Mr. Benaquista stated it may need to be updated. I will take a look at it. We did put a note on that saying about the information is accurate. I will bring them back together and update that. Do we have to update the whole policy if we are updating a resource list? Mr. Griggs stated it is part of the policy. Mr. Tatum stated I think the form that I saw – if any provider were to agree to that form, you can take the child anywhere of your choice not a specific list. Mr. Monge stated the point is if Overlook is only going to give you their form of release and they are not going to use your form of release then Overlook is not an acceptable place for parents to go to. Mr. Tatum stated Mr. Griggs, how subjective is that? If a person or any reputable place has the appropriate unit to evaluate a child and they released him and they are saying that they didn't find anything, are we obligated to let the child return to school? Is it up to me? Mr. Griggs stated it is discretionary. Mr. Nufrio stated they can say whatever they want but if he comes here and he goes violent, we are still going to be liable.

Mr. Tatum stated when we send a child out, how long can I keep that child out of school? Mr. Monge stated the folks that you are sending them to and doing the evaluation has to be reputable. Mr. Griggs stated you still have a concern. Your concern may go beyond the suicide part as is some child who has an incident in school where you send them out because there are issues going on and that moves you over to different evaluation. It is a judgement call. If you have a re-entry meeting and you sit there with the parents and the kid and you don't feel real good about him coming back here then you have to make a choice. Mr. Nufrio asked does it come under the same guidelines if it was a staff member. You as the Superintendent would be advised to bring it to executive session and say this is what we have and we have this release but I think this kid is o.k. but what does the Board think. Mr. Griggs stated it is just like fitness for duty.

Mr. Tatum stated I guess it is subject to interpretation. If I get something from St. Barnabus and this kid looks o.k. but that one line is not in there and they released him; again how long do I keep this kid out of school if he looks like he is o.k.

Mr. Monge stated the bigger thing is you have a St. Barnabus crisis center telling you that he is o.k. to be released. Mr. Nufrio stated but within the confines of their building. Once they leave their building, anything can happen. But we talk about re-entering into population you have to use good judgement and it is your discretion and if you feel that the kid may need more psychiatric intentions or symptoms, then you make that recommendation. Mr. Griggs stated you have people in your staff to make that call. Mr. Tatum stated it is very rare that even gets to me. I had one that was a suspension and after reviewing all the information, I said first of all, what they are recommending I would not support because it wasn't feasible for that particular child but I also felt that there were some things that I was seeing.

Mr. Nufrio stated once the kid is sent out, it goes into your office because you are the CEO. Mr. Tatum stated what I'm saying I don't do all those admissions it is done at the building level. Mr. Nufrio stated but you should still be notified. Mr. Tatum stated it would never get to me, the person would be turned away, unless they knew to come to me to appeal, they would be out of school and we are waiting for two or three lines. Mr. Nufrio stated it is still violent behavior whether self-inflicted or on someone else. It still falls under the same guidelines. Mr. Tatum stated I'm not questioning that. What I'm concerned about is how long can you keep a kid out. Mr. Griggs stated you can but it has to be according to the law. Mr. Tatum stated I understand but if I think the kid is risk and it isn't written in by a professional. Mr. Griggs stated your assessment and observation. Certain children are not coming back until you are comfortable having them with the rest of the population.

Mr. Nufrio stated a simple recommendation would be if you have to engage the assistance of someone – you have crisis people in the District – you have SAC and school psychology. Once you have input from them you are good to go. Mr. Tatum stated the way that policy was written was all they have to do is have a letter that says they can come back. Mr. Griggs stated even if you get that letter and you have a concern, I would call the psychologist, social worker, whomever and say what do you think? Mr. Tatum stated that saying then really means nothing. Mr. Griggs stated it is part of the package. Mr. Monge stated I will send it to you tonight.

RESIDENCY COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS:

Mrs. Zuena presented the Residency Committee agenda.

Mrs. Zuena stated I have an update on the re-registration from Julia. As of last night we had 1,122 families re-register. 158 families came out last night. We still have 4,924 students who have not re-registered yet. She said there is a little confusion on which families need to re-register. When I go into the Genesis system, is there a way to pull a report of who is registered? Mrs. Hart stated the confusion is in one you are saying families, is more confusing. When they re-register I coded all 7500 kids as "did not re-register". As they re-register they clicking it off so now they don't show up but you can't tell families from that. Mrs. Zuena stated she said there is 4,924 students that are flagged right now. Maybe do an everyday robo call.

Mr. Nufrio stated Mr. Tatum don't take this personally but 5:30 in the morning, you are the last person I want to hear. Mr. Tatum stated if you didn't hear that voice and something happened you would be saying why didn't we hear your voice at 5:30. Forecasts changes, I was taking the time to monitor that and some people were not happy with the time that the call came. It was 11 p.m. when I started to think maybe this is something we should do for tomorrow – it was a Sunday and I do have a life that I attend to and when I really took a hard look at it and it became evening and I was pondering. When I got up at 3:45 and took a look at the weather and the changes, I had made up my mind that I was going to do a half day. However, when a decision is made, there is transportation, field trips and a lot of pieces. I was on the phone at 5 a.m. with the Director of Special Services, building principals – this is all that goes into making these decisions. There may be people that weren't happy about it and it is a decision that I made I will stand by it and I would do it again.

Mrs. Zuena stated maybe Julia can do more robo calls. If they are not re-registered by the end of the school year, then we are going to have to have them here. Mr. Tatum stated speaking of re-registration, everyone at this table should know, I was informed that not one Board has re-registered. Mrs. Zuena stated there are no complaints, people are going in and out so that is a good plus.

Mr. Tatum stated one last thing on the heat emergency. You guys do realize that a year ago we had a half day and there was something going on in the Township and one of our students participated and passed out and injured themselves. That was a situation where it was back and forth and we called the day but unfortunately that happened and what I'm trying to say is we air on the side of safety regardless.

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE:

Mr. Monge stated collection of the Chrome Books. We talked about some other stuff. Mrs. Paul stated we collected most of the Chrome Books and we are checking what is broken and what is not and trying to get what needs to be sent out to Dell to get repaired.

Mrs. Zuena stated we didn't get any phone call about seniors. Mrs. Paul stated I collected seniors today. Mrs. Williams stated my son knew it was to go back today but he didn't feel like carrying it. Mrs. Zuena stated I know my son's is at home because their final exam was given to them through Chrome Book. Mrs. Paul stated we gave teachers who are doing final exams their own set of Chrome Books. Mrs. Zuena stated he still has his Chrome Book. Mrs. Paul stated every teacher who is doing their final exam online, they are in my office and will be delivered first thing in the morning. Mrs. Zuena stated so just so you know, no robo call went out to the seniors. Mrs. Williams stated but they knew.

Mrs. Zuena asked did they come back with all their parts and everything? Mrs. Paul stated yes. We actually got some power supplies that don't belong to Chrome Book.

Mr. Monge stated in the future, the message that went out about the \$300. The agreement never said \$300. Mrs. Zuena stated we discussed that at length and that the District was paying for the insurance so why would they pay the \$300. Mr. Monge stated the point is if you are not bringing it back, the agreement should say what the fine is as a deterrent. Parents were asking us and it didn't say anything.

Mr. Tatum stated I thought the insurance was covering replacement cost. Mr. Monge stated it does. The calls came from Mr. Paterno – two calls with the same message and said if the Chrome Books are not returned you will owe \$300. Mr. Tatum stated I thought that was the whole purpose of the insurance. Mr. Griggs stated I wrote that agreement and I don't recall \$300. Mr. Monge stated my point is if it doesn't say it in the agreement and the robo call is saying you are going to owe \$300 – if you owe \$300, it would have it in the agreement. Mrs. Minneci stated this is a scare tactic. Mr. Tatum stated I heard this before. Mrs. Zuena played the robo call.

Mr. Monge stated if you are going to be silent and if someone doesn't return it then how do you go after them. I had some parents that were questioning whether they wanted to take the Chrome Book fearing the kid lost the Chrome Book and they would have to owe money.

Mrs. Zuena asked does the message make sense. Mr. Griggs stated the message makes sense but I'm not sure he can do that. Mr. McDowell stated it sounds unauthorized. Mr. Nufrio asked is the insurance just for the damage? Or full replacement? Mr. Griggs stated I haven't seen the insurance. Mr. Nufrio stated if you don't bring it back, the insurance company is not going to give you a new one. Mr. Monge stated if it is lost, it can't just be \$25? Mr. McDowell stated if you don't bring it back, it could be considered stolen.

Mr. Monge stated for next year we need to include a cost. Mr. Tatum stated in the agreement.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Bills will be approved next week.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Tatum stated next week there will be more personnel recommendations on the agenda. Two things we discussed in the Personnel Committee. You will see them prior to the next meeting. We are doing a few more interviews. Hopefully by the time the agenda posts Friday morning, hopefully we will have them on there. One is the Central Office agreement, one is another position with the Personnel Manager. Mr. Benaquista stated also a job description. Mr. Tatum stated the contracts you asked about Paul are at the County office and hopefully we will have them next week from the County Superintendent – the contracts are the Assistant Superintendents, the Business Administrator and Mr. Vieira's does not require approval.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Monge stated we had a copier group make a presentation and it seems like we do have a copier issuer but what is the best way to try to approach that. Mr. Griggs stated it is a State contract. Mr. Brennan stated Atlantic Business Machines is a State contract so we don't have to bid and we are going to save money.

Mr. Monge stated it is obvious that we have an opportunity to save some money but I think you have to talk about approach to propose it. Mrs. Zuena stated I think our copies go down a lot now because of the kids with the Chrome Books. All of their papers are uploaded. We make 1,000,232 copies a month. Mr. Brennan stated no, that is what we pay for no matter what. This proposal is based on usage. Mrs. Zuena stated it said that is what we made most months – that's a lot of copies.

Mr. Monge stated you have an opportunity to save about \$25,000 but the quality of the copiers would be much better. You have the ability to scan into files and stuff like that. When is that contract up? Mr. Brennan stated June 30th. Are you going to look through this? Mr. Monge stated it is black and white to me.

Mr. Monge stated I was at the Vauxhall Civic Association and spoke on Mr. Tatum's behalf. It was a nice event. There was a woman there from Overlook and she was doing a community outreach and she approached me afterwards and she said they offer scholarships and grants. I told her she should talk to the administration and maybe come in and make a presentation. I will get you that info.

Mr. Tatum stated we did meet with Kean University – Dean Pitman and the group and we are getting use of facilities and other programs that we talked about where students can take classes so that process is moving forward. We will have more specific information as we move forward. One thing they told us that there is a whole new procedure coming out on how student teachers can become certified. Gerry is going to do some recruitment there and they are setting something up just for our District. It was a very good meeting.

Mrs. Zuena stated we always say if it rains we have to move our graduation inside. Mr. Tatum stated we talked about that too. Mr. Benaquista stated it won't be for this year. They want to first find out if their facilities can accommodate us. We might have to reduce tickets. We can still do close caption here always but if they can hold more in air conditioned. Mrs. Zuena stated she doesn't know why personally anybody comes to watch it in a classroom because it is on TV34 live in your house. If you stay home you can watch the graduation on your couch rather than sitting in a hot classroom.

Mr. Nufrio stated do you remember when we talked about that situation last month that busing had ceased. I didn't call you directly but I did have an opportunity to ask Mr. Griggs if he had heard of this because it was in the School Board's Bulletin. There was a case in Colorado that went up to the Supreme Court and at each level the parents were denied and they kept appealing which I am sure resulting in excessive amounts of legal fees. The Supreme Court ruled in favor that this family was entitled to be reimbursed for the private school that they had to send their child to and they specifically worded it that the needs of the child, although probably being met, there was no visible sign of progress in other areas as well. I had a chance to ask Paul if he had heard about the case and he looked into it and the response from the attorney that handles special ed for us was that New Jersey has that wording but districts be cautioned – are you really following the letter of that particular mandate. I thought back and said here's a parent that all they want was busing for that child to go to the afterschool activity and it had ceased. Imagine what lawsuits could result from parents who say you are not doing enough for my child. Status quo is not enough.

Mr. Tatum stated the parent did receive the transportation for the remainder of the school year. I did have the opportunity to speak with her over the phone and I did work with the Department of Special Services and with Athena from Paul's office and there was a plan. You know what my position was and I spoke with some of you individually. I didn't like the way that it was done and it was unfair and why I didn't feel I needed to bring it back to the Board because between talking with the Department of Special Services, and I went there in person to speak with the supervisor of the department and she gave me some information that I thought was very valuable in terms of how that matter can be resolved and then when I spoke with Athena in Paul's office, I explained the position that I felt and where I felt the majority of the Board was

and we came up with a compromise that favored the parent's needs for the rest of the year. Moving forward, I think they have to do something with the IEP's.

I will throw one thing on the table and the hopefully the last thing I say tonight. One of the things that I thought was good when I met with the supervisor regarding this and she made a statement that in some cases when we have circumstances like that, if it is indeed something that is not part of the IEP the way it was described in this case, that sometimes the IEP can reflect the kind of care that is given at that particular facility and/or the facility can be trained to actually perform that type of services in the IEP. That made a lot of sense to me and that is where we ended and more to come.

Mr. Nufrio stated my bigger concern and it should be all of our concern is the entire spectrum of the special ed department needs to be very vigilant about complying with the already very clear wording that there must be progress – status quo is not enough. That particular case as Paul had indicated, can you imagine the legal fees that the District would be responsible for.

Mr. Monge stated let alone the person comes here. Mr. Nufrio stated that was with busing which is a minimal cost for us. Can you imagine if there was more to that. Mr. Tatum stated the appearance of what happen. Mr. Monge stated she came here to advocate about it and then she gets a call that you don't get bus services.

There is another housing development going on and it is proposed downtown. We talked about this before and I looked at State statutes as it pertains to the need of impact on the district and the need for developers to be able to prove that their development is not going to impact negatively on the school district. All this development that is going in Town and the meeting we had with the Township last year, Mr. Manzella told me that Mr. Damato said that there wasn't going to be any impact. Which obviously didn't follow the statute but we are the Board of Education so our hands are tied and we put that on Township to be able to fight that fight for us. Now we have hundreds of units here and we have another 134 that they are proposing downtown so to assume that there is going to be zero impact on our school district is ridiculous. I would think that the Board of Education – we should send a letter to the Township and ask them to speak to that impact and we should ask the developers. Mrs. Zuena stated this building next door is going to be apartments too. Mr. McDowell stated they got the project approved but then as it moves along and when it gets to a certain stage there has to be some Board of Education (inaudible). Mrs. Zuena stated right here can turn into two-bedroom apartments too.

Mr. Monge stated ultimately the only thing we can do is to ask the Town to look into a third-party impact report on how it is going to impact the school district. The other development that was done – they got money out of them to build a clubhouse at Union Little League – that whole stadium. We could have taken that money to build an extension. Mrs. Zuena stated they built the one at Hickory Manor too. They built the snack stand. Mr. Monge stated the point is they are coming into our Town and obviously there are kids there. They are coming into the Town and they are supposed to speak to impact on our schools and we are not getting that money it is going into other things. A friendly letter and ask for a third party impact report and how it would affect our school and if it does negatively for them to make a proposal to mitigate it.

Mr. Nufrio stated remember when we talked about putting a tower in the courtyard, did you know that it would have been illegal? It was for cell phones. It was on the news just a few days ago – there was a township that permitted the tower to be erected – it has to be 200 feet away from the school. Mrs. Zuena stated we would have been built around it. Mr. Nufrio stated there were lawsuits initiated against the district because the parents of some were concerned about their child's health. Mr. Tatum stated we ended up not doing it. Mr. Nufrio stated we ended up not doing it because we wanted the right to also sell it to other companies and T-Mobile said no we are exclusively going to be in control of that tower.

Mr. Griggs stated has a demographic study been done in the last five years? My thought is because of the different configurations of the classrooms now because there are more special ed activities going on, that is concrete evidence to demonstrate that we have limitations here in terms of future growth. Mr. Nufrio stated shouldn't that come from you – the letter that asks for some consideration and explanation. Mr. Griggs stated so it is clear when it gets downtown that we have x-amount of space right now. Mr. Nufrio stated Roselle Park has a moratorium. Mr. Tatum stated when I met with the architect, one of the things I asked him to do for us as they look at buildings is to also look at capacity in terms of each of the buildings. One of the things that I am concerned about is if we ever do decide to reconfigure, in order to reconfigure you need to know what your capacity is for the building for particular age level so that is something they are looking at as well. Sometimes we hear the buildings are overcrowded but at the same time – what was the building designed to be able to handle for that particular age level. The idea of the influx of the special ed programs also reduces our capacity. If we can say capacity is 700 students but when use a classroom where there is five, there are 20 other students that are not in there so that has to be taken in consideration as well.

What you are saying Jeff about the impact of new students coming in, especially since some of the developments have gone from sales to rentals which also has another impact because here is an opportunity for a family who may not have down payment but to move into something brand new and it is an opportunity for them and therefore they may have the income but not the sources for the closing and so they can rent and that changes the game as well. Mr. Nufrio stated it brings more younger families in.

As I mentioned Roselle Park, they have a moratorium. They have properties where developers want to put up apartments and the town said no, we don't have the schools to accommodate additional number of students that could potentially arise from that construction. There are properties in Roselle Park that remain empty. They won't give the permits to build.

Mr. Tatum stated we also have to think about redrawing the lines because we have Washington School right now which has over 600 but then we have Livingston in the same area that has maybe 400. There is still room in that school but again depending what programs we have there because again back to when I heard there was over 700 kids in that building but 700 kids all occupying the classroom space with a maximum class size without the caveat that some classes are kept smaller and some classes are specialized. They may have the room but some equipment might need to be brought into that room. It happened at Hannah Caldwell twice.

Mr. Nufrio stated I can't fathom why a town when they do issue permits to build certain types of facilities, and we should be the primary concern because those families may have kids and where are we going to put them unless they are willing to float us some money and build another building somewhere.

Mr. Monge stated historically there are impact fees and sometimes those impact fees are one shot deal and they may pay a hundred grand upfront or whatever or sometimes they put it as a tax. Mr. Griggs stated payment in lieu of taxes. Mr. Monge stated but the reality is it needs to be more communication because on Thursday is the planning board meeting and they are going to have the developers present and I don't know what stage of approval it is at. It is something that we have been sitting on the sidelines and it keeps going and going and nobody is knocking on our door. Ultimately, the burden is going to end up on us.

Can we have Mr. Griggs write that letter? Mr. Griggs stated what would be very helpful is to send a communication to the Town by the Board which sets forth very clear facts that we don't have the capacity. So it is there on record. I don't know the dynamics of city hall. Other towns, when developers come in, the developer has to bring an expert in and say these are the number of kids that are going to be generated and you can get a copy of that report. At the very least you need something on record with the Township and the Planning Board to give them the facts. These are our buildings, these are how the buildings are being used, and this is our functional capacity. Other than putting up a new school and there is the question of where would you put that school. A lot of towns have a liaison from the Township that comes to the Board meetings and then conversely the Board has someone go to the Township meetings and you keep that rapport going.

Mr. Nufrio stated I think Mr. Brennan brought some interesting information to the table that said that the ratable revenues had decreased. I can understand a town trying to make up for that lost revenue but if it is going to adversely impact on us, then naturally your request to get a refund on your tax is going to be totally rejected. The additional ratable don't make up for the collateral damage. You have to communicate and certainly we have a communication highway with the city but I think that is one aspect that needs to be better.

Mr. Monge stated what is the next step? Mr. McDowell stated we can write a letter but as Mr. Griggs said we need some data to say we are at our limit. Another thing we can do is the planning board meeting is next week and we can show up there and ask the same questions. What kind of impact is your building going to have on our school system? Mr. Monge stated I think putting it in writing is definitely important. It will be interesting for us to ask and Mr. Griggs can we ask for any impact reports that were done from those residential developments. Mr. Griggs stated I think you could because they are public records. They are submitted to the planning board. Mr. Monge stated that would be good for us to have. Mr. Griggs stated usually you can go in and look at the "file" and that file would contain all the submissions – the plans, the expert reports. They are going to have a planner, a traffic person, an engineer, an architect, whatever the condition is and particularly the planner. If they are looking for variances they need that planner to give the positive impact and the negative impact. Mr. Nufrio stated and to give the community enough time to respond. Mr. Griggs stated to balance it. That is part of the proofs which again if you are going with variances, you need the proofs. Mr. McDowell stated

we will be there next week. I think we do need the letter even if it is just requesting impact statements or whatever was done on these projects. Mr. Nufrio stated and expressing our concerns.

Mr. Monge asked who gets that information to Mr. Griggs. We probably have it with EI. Mr. Tatum stated that is who I was talking to about it. Mr. Griggs stated they probably have it with the Long-Range Facility Plan – the functional capacities of the school. The functional are different than the actual.

Mr. Tatum stated my reason for asking that again was if we ever come up with any reconfiguration, you have to know how many students can be housed in the building. Mr. Brennan stated grade level. Mr. Tatum stated grade level and that is the reason why I raised that question for that purpose alone. Also the impact it may have long term because we talked about having another building here in Town that we are not using which is Hamilton School. Mr. Nufrio stated the meeting we had with EI, they knocked that completely out. It is not doable. Mr. Tatum stated they have a totally different opinion now. Mrs. Zuena stated it would just cost money. Mr. Tatum stated they went and walked through and then came back and walked again. We know it is going to cost money but at the same time if indeed there is an impact – why would you have a building sitting here and that is not having any real use and it is not benefiting the students at all and then we overcrowd our schools – it just doesn't make sense.

Mr. Monge stated once again it comes down to money. The little bit we save here and all that stuff adds up. Mr. Brennan stated we will save money on energy this year – gas and electric. Mr. Monge stated just the 2% or under tax levy – we have a lot of work to continuing doing fiscally to make sure that we free up that money.

Mr. Tatum stated I don't think anybody is trying to open up Hamilton School or any school in September. I think looking at it down the road and also the impact. At minimum we talked about a revenue source. The whole idea is why would you make it a revenue source, if you don't have room for the kids. Mr. Nufrio stated you would still have to bring it up to speed anyway. Mr. Tatum stated exactly but what they talked about was maybe some of this money that Jeff is talking about now could go to do that as we are talking about places being built and having an impact on the District and you were saying you can get them to generate some of the money to do something to Hamilton School. It is just a matter of looking at different options but I think it was originally off the table but then they saw the buildings. I was surprised on how excited the guy was when he came back that day.

Mr. Nufrio asked I thought he had gone through the building? Mr. Tatum stated he had not. The first time he went through the building he went through it with me. Mrs. Minneci stated it is a nice little school. Mr. Nufrio stated we didn't get that impression. When he presented, he knocked it completely off that table – it is just not doable, not feasible. We understood that. Mr. Brennan stated it would be very expensive to get it up to code. Mrs. Zuena stated that is before he did his walk through. He had not seen the building. Mr. McDowell stated that was the only building they had not been in.

Mr. Tatum stated it was recommended that he see me – he made an appointment and we went to Hamilton and then he went back. Mr. Nufrio stated I was under the impression that they had gone to every building. Mrs. Zuena stated there was no write up on Hamilton because he hadn't seen it yet. Mr. Nufrio stated perhaps you heard that but I did not. I only heard that he didn't have a write up because he thought it was financially a nightmare.

Mr. McDowell stated we will notify the Township about an impact study and that we would like to see one and if it is available or not and have a third party do one. I am going to be there next week at the planning board meeting for another concern but I think I will bring that up too.

The evaluation of our school board – self-evaluation and the evaluation of the Superintendent has to be done by the end of this month. We have to set a date for our August planning meeting. Between now and our next meeting think about some dates in August that you would like us to meet.

Mr. Nufrio asked when is the August meeting? Mrs. Cappiello stated August 15th. Mr. McDowell stated I won't be here for the 15th. Mr. Nufrio asked why can't we do it the same night – meet two hours earlier? What if we change the meeting date? Mrs. Zuena stated to the first or second Tuesday. Mrs. Cappiello stated you can't I'm not here and I have to be there a week before if you want an agenda posted. Mr. Monge stated there is no back for her? Mrs. Cappiello stated not at this time. Mr. Nufrio stated how about the 22nd? Two hours before and then go to regular meeting. Mr. Monge and Mrs. Zuena asked if we can talk about this next week. Mr. Nufrio stated we start at 5, close at 7 and open again at 7. Mr. McDowell stated so the 22nd. Mrs. Zuena stated but we will confirm it next week. Mr. Monge stated I have to check with my boss.

Dr. Francis asked any news about the balloon? Mr. Tatum stated the balloon is supposed to be next week and it is sponsored at a County park and I was told that the winners had been notified. They were getting information from the County to use the park. Dr. Francis stated I thought the Board of Ed had to approve it. Mr. Tatum stated it is not a Board of Ed sponsored activity. It's permission from the parents and I think it is sponsored by the County Freeholders.

Dr. Francis stated my son won the essay contest and his classmate won second place. First time in history the winners came from the same Town and school.

Mrs. Minneci stated at the Rotary Dinner, you were there, Mrs. Williams, Mr. Benaquista, Mrs. Moses, Mr. Arminio – I was very impressed with the speeches that the girls gave. They were wonderful. Mr. Tatum stated they did a nice job. Mrs. Minneci stated they were so eloquent and they did a better job than I could do standing up in front of all those people. They honored the elementary principals which was very nice as well. Mr. Tatum stated I got sick that day and I went home but we sent the report. Mr. Monge stated I was scrabbling to get reception in the church and I had to go outside and pull down your presentation. It was a great crowd. Mr. Tatum stated I was sorry I missed it because I was looking forward to it. Mr. Monge stated it was a lot of fun and great discussion.

Dr. Francis asked don't we have a RICE letter for tonight? Mr. Benaquista stated it will be on for next week. Mr. Tatum stated it will be on the agenda for next week and we will RICE him for next week. It is about restoring an increment and then there was another incident so that will be before you next week.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

No one in the public.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the Board, it was moved by Mrs. Williams, seconded by Mrs. Darby, that the meeting be adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

AYE: Dr. Francis, Mrs. Minneci, Mr. Monge, Mr. Nufrio, Mrs. Regis-Darby, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Zuena, Mr. McDowell

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

GREGORY E. BRENNAN
BOARD SECRETARY