

NOTICE OF MEETING:

TO ALL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS:

A special meeting of the Board of Education of the Township of Union will be held on Thursday, July 9, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. at the James Caulfield Administration Building, 2369 Morris Avenue, Union, New Jersey 07083

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:

Mr. David Arminio, Mr. Ronnie McDowell, Mr. Vito Nufrio, Mr. Angel Salcedo and Mrs. Nancy Zuena

BY PHONE:

Dr. Guy Francis, Ms. Lois Jackson, Mr. Thomas Layden

ABSENT AT ROLL CALL:

None

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Mr. Gregory Tatum (by phone), Dr. Noreen Lishak, Mr. Manuel E. Vieira, Gerry Benaquista and Mr. James Damato

Mr. Arminio called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Mr. Arminio led the Board and audience members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Damato read the statement required under the "Open Public Meetings Act", a copy of which is on file in the office of the Board Secretary.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS:

Mrs. Lipstein stated P-2 I did want to make an inquiry about the Interim Superintendent Roland Bolandi – what his position was because that was sort of vague – there wasn't enough information on there. Mr. Arminio stated I will let Mrs. Moses answer that question but it really affects nothing for us but she'll answer. Mrs. Lipstein stated I am sure it is not an issue but my concern was just putting on a little more information on the Interim Superintendent – where, who, was there a coup I didn't know about? Mr. Arminio stated it is just about mentoring Mrs. Moses. Mrs. Moses stated Mr. Bolandi will be my mentor. He is currently serving as an Interim Superintendent in the public school district of Montclair. He has been a Superintendent for 22 years. He was given to me by the New Jersey Association of School Administrators and he will mentor me for the entire year. Mrs. Lipstein stated it is a very good idea. My concern about interim superintendent is that it didn't give enough information and of course I researched and looked him up and he does have a lot of experience and he has some interesting comments he has made about Montclair and I think that going out and getting experience from people who work in similar districts (inaudible) I think it is a fabulous idea. My concern was it just wasn't enough

identifying information on that so I'm very glad you have that. It is probably a good thing for our other administrators.

Mr. Arminio stated why is it even a resolution? Mr. Damato stated the State Board requires that we adopt a resolution approving the mentorship. I think there is a misunderstanding on Mrs. Lipstein's part, mentorship is a requirement. When you have a certificate of eligibility, in order to get your standard certificate, you have to be mentored by law; so every one of our administrators is mentored. This has been the law for many years. Mr. Nufrio can probably attest. Mr. Arminio stated I just don't remember it for other administrators being part of a resolution. Mr. Nufrio stated possibly not, I don't recall it either, but I think it is the right thing. As Jim said, her selection of a mentor which I was going to ask you what drove you to that particular individual but that is not necessary, we can talk about that in private. Basically, since he will be sort of conjoined with you in your duties, it is appropriate that the Board know who you are talking with about our District. In a sense it is approving the individual because she could have selected somebody who some Board members may think that is a bad selection.

Mr. Arminio stated any other comments on any other items? None.

COMMUNICATIONS:

LETTER OF RESIGNATION – DAMATO

Letter of resignation, for the purpose of retirement, from James J. Damato, Board Secretary/General Counsel, effective October 1, 2015

FISCAL AND PLANNING COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS:

F-1. APPROVE CONTRACTS AND/OR PURCHASES

Moved by Mr. Salcedo, seconded by Mrs. Zuena, that the board approve the attached list of contracts and/or purchases pursuant to the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5(21), in accordance with the information appended to these minutes, (a) Anna V. – mother to B.G., student with cancer - \$1,000 – Union High School-Athletics Misc. – donation from the Jeffery Bubnowski Charitable Foundation.

Mr. Arminio stated I don't think there is any problem with that – if anyone is not familiar with the Jeff Bubnowski Charitable Foundation – he was a wrestler for Union High School and baseball player and football player and in his early twenties he passed away from leukemia and Johanna has started a foundation in his memory and they raised a lot of money and have given it to athletes every year so they are just giving this to a student. I think this is very commendable.

AYE: Dr. Francis, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Layden, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Nufrio, Mr. Salcedo, Mrs. Zuena, Mr. Arminio

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Arminio stated that we will take a five minute recess. Mr. Tatum arrived (8:20 a.m.).

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS:

O-1. APPROVE REQUEST OF AFFILIATED MONITORING

Moved by Mrs. Zuena, seconded by Mr. Layden, that the Board approve the request of Affiliated Monitoring to use the high school parking lot, in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

Mr. Arminio stated if you didn't look at the back-up material, there was a letter received from Affiliated Monitoring right on Stahuber Avenue. They want to use the parking lot because they are having an employee picnic on Friday, July 17th and they are just going to use it to park. They are not going to do anything in the parking lot other than that. Does anyone have any other comments or questions or need any other information? Mr. Salcedo asked Jim do you completely approve of that? Mr. Damato stated yes. I had some dealings with their insurance company already. Their insurance company wanted a form of contract which I sent to them yesterday and which we handed out to you today. I think the contract protects us to the fullest extent we can be protected with the indemnification language and the insurance language naming us as the additional insured parties. There is really no custodial issue, there is no out-of-pocket money for us, it is just a neighborly thing to do. They are our neighbors here and they could probably have used the parking lot and not even asked any body and no one would have known the difference. They did the right thing and asked and I think it is a good thing to help our neighbor out.

AYE: Dr. Francis, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Layden, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Nufrio, Mr. Salcedo, Mrs. Zuena, Mr. Arminio

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS:

Mr. Arminio stated that we are in Personnel now and let's go backwards – P-3, P-2 and then P-1. P-3 we can all save our comments and questions and things that we want to say about Mr. Damato for either July, August or September meetings and you can write your speeches about what you want to say about Mr. Damato, but let's just accept his letter of resignation.

P-3. ACCEPT LETTER OF RESIGNATION

Moved by Mr. Nufrio, seconded by Mr. Salcedo, that the Board accept the letter of resignation, for the purpose of retirement, from James J. Damato, Board Secretary/General Counsel, effective October 1, 2015.

AYE: Dr. Francis, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Layden, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Nufrio, Mr. Salcedo, Mrs. Zuena, Mr. Arminio

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

P-2. APPROVE RONALD BOLANDI TO SERVE AS MENTOR

Moved by Mr. Nufrio, seconded by Mr. McDowell, that the Board approve Ronald Bolandi, Interim Superintendent, to serve as the mentor to the new Assistant Superintendent, Annie Moses, at no cost to the Board.

AYE: Dr. Francis, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Layden, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Nufrio, Mr. Salcedo, Mrs. Zuena, Mr. Arminio

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

P-1. APPROVE PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Moved by Mr. Nufrio, seconded by Mr. Salcedo.

Mr. Arminio asked if there were comments, questions or statements about P-1? I have to first go back since Mr. Damato and I have spent a lot of time reviewing the policies – there is a policy which I got passed a couple of years ago, that a resolution can only be removed once by the Board President for one month to the next month and since the last one was in June and this one is in July, I cannot remove P-1 from the agenda and table it for future consideration – so that takes away that. We have to either vote on this after discussion, we can go into Executive Session and discuss it because we are talking about personnel matters or we can discuss it but how much can we discuss it in open meeting about this resolution.

Mr. Damato stated in difference to the people that are being proposed to be hired, I think that the most appropriate way to deal with that would be in Executive Session because these are potential candidates for hire and Mr. Tatum or Dr. Lishak may have information to give the Board which is confidential, related to the persons’ application or other information that they submitted as part of the employment process. Based on that, I would recommend, if you want to discuss it further, that the discussion should take place in Executive Session.

MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Moved by Mr. Nufrio, seconded by Mr. Salcedo that the board go into Executive Session to discuss the following subject matters without the presence of the public in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 10:4-2(b) student and personnel matters. The board will disclose the discussion conducted during the Executive Session with notice to the public when the disclosure will not result in unwarranted invasion of individual privacy or prejudice to the best interest of the board of education and provided that such disclosure does not violate federal, state or local statutes and does not fall within the attorney-client privilege.

AYE: Dr. Francis, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Layden, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Nufrio, Mr. Salcedo, Mrs. Zuena, Mr. Arminio

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Arminio stated that just a reminder, when we come back from Executive Session, we have to pay our bills.

Ms. Jackson dropped off call around 9:00 a.m.

MOTION TO RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION:

There being no further business to be conducted in Executive Session it was moved by Mr. McDowell, seconded by Mr. Salcedo that the Board return to public session. All present voting YES. MOTION CARRIED.

P-1. APPROVE PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Dr. Francis stated I still have a couple of questions on P-1 which didn't involve that, it involved the new hires, the English teacher and the Special Ed teacher, is that an additional hire or a replacement? Mr. Arminio stated there were two new positions, the first one is Nicole Dietzer and another new position Jane Tresnan, another English teacher and a Special Education teacher, they are both because of numbers – student population. Dr. Francis said o.k. I just wanted to know what they were. Mr. Arminio stated the English teacher, I don't know if it is going to be at Burnet or Kawameeh. Dr. Lishak stated both – it is a split. Mr. Vieira stated I think Guy's question is – is it a budgeted position? Dr. Lishak stated this one is based on numbers – this is a non-budgeted special ed number issue. The one on the bottom has been budgeted for. Mr. Tatum stated I think we need to make it clear. A lot of times with special education, we unfortunately get caught up in non-budgeted positions because they are mandated and we don't have any other choice.

Moved by Mr. Nufrio, seconded by Mr. Layden, that Personnel Actions be approved in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

AYE: Dr. Francis, Mr. Layden, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Nufrio, Mr. Salcedo, Mrs. Zuena

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Mr. Arminio

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Moved by Mr. Salcedo, seconded by Mr. McDowell that the Board concur with the bills listed in the permanent bound register appended to these minutes and be ordered for payment.

AYE: Dr. Francis, Mr. Layden, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Nufrio, Mr. Salcedo, Mrs. Zuena, Mr. Arminio

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the Board it was moved by Mr. Nufrio, seconded by Mr. Salcedo that the meeting be adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

AYE: Dr. Francis, Mr. Layden, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Nufrio, Mr. Salcedo, Mrs. Zuena, Mr. Arminio

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES J. DAMATO
BOARD SECRETARY