

TOWNSHIP OF UNION BOARD OF EDUCATION
ORGANIZATION MEETING AGENDA
JANUARY 3, 2017

NOTICE OF MEETING:

The Organization meeting of the Board of Education of the Township of Union was held on Tuesday, January 3, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Union High School Library, 2400 North Third Street, Union, New Jersey pursuant to notice sent to each Board member.

- A. Meeting was called to order by Mr. Gregory Brennan, Board Secretary at 7:00 p.m.
- B. Flag Salute – Mr. Brennan led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- C. Administer Oaths of Office – Mr. Brennan administered the oaths of office to the newly elected Board members – one was reelected and two were newly elected: Mrs. Nellis Regis-Darby, Mrs. Nancy Minneci and Mrs. Mary Lynn Williams.

- D. Announcement of Newly-elected Board Members by Mr. Brennan:
 - 1. Nancy Minneci
 - 2. Nellis Regis-Darby
 - 3. Mary Lynn Williams

- E. Present at Roll Call:
Mr. David Arminio, Dr. Guy Francis, 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:

None

Administrators Present:

Mr. Gregory Tatum, Mrs. Annie Moses, Mr. Gerry Benaquista, Mr. Gregory Brennan

Also Present:

Mr. Paul Griggs, Esq.

- F. Open Public Meeting Act Statement was read by Mr. Brennan, a copy of which is on file in the office of the Board Secretary.

- G. Organization

PRESIDENT

Mr. Brennan called for nominations for the Office of President.

Moved by Mrs. Zuena, seconded by Mr. Monge that Mr. McDowell be nominated for the Office of President.

Mr. Brennan called for other nominations for the Office of President. There being none, the nominations for the Office of President were closed.

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYES: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. McDowell assumes the chair as President.

Mr. McDowell stated thank you Board members. This is the beginning of my third year on the Board and I would like to acknowledge the two people that have been President before me – Mr. David Arminio and Mr. Vito Nufrio. I will try my best and I may stumble on the way so feel free to help me.

VICE PRESIDENT

Mr. McDowell calls for nominations for the Office of Vice President

Moved by Dr. Francis, seconded by Mrs. Williams that Mrs. Zuena be nominated for the Office of Vice President.

Mr. McDowell called for other nominations for the Office of Vice President. There being none, the nominations for the Office of Vice President were closed.

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYES: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Monge stated I was there briefly when I started on the Board with Mr. Arminio and this last year with Mr. Nufrio and I like to say that Mr. Nufrio during that time did an amazing job of pushing things forward and I really enjoyed working with you and will continue to work with you going forward and I recognize all your hard work. Mr. Nufrio stated thank you and Mr. McDowell you will do a fine job.

MEETING NIGHTS

Moved by Mr. McDowell, seconded by Mrs. Darby, that the schedule of committee meetings, work sessions and regular meetings be adopted in accordance with the schedule, in the hands of each Board member; and be it further moved that copies be posted in the Administration Building and with the Township Clerk and that copies be sent to the Star Ledger and the Union County Local Source for publication.

DISCUSSION: None

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYES: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

POLICY MANUAL

Moved by Mr. McDowell, seconded by Mr. Arminio, that the Policy Manual of the Township of Union Board of Education presently in effect be hereby readopted.

DISCUSSION: None

ROLL CALL;

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

NAYES: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

DESIGNATE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS

Moved by Mr. McDowell, seconded by Dr. Francis, that the Board adopt the formal resolution in the hands of each Board member designating the Union County Local Source and the Star Ledger as newspapers to receive notice of meetings and fixing charges for notices to the public meetings in the amount of \$60 for 2017.

DISCUSSION: None

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYES: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

DESIGNATE INTERNET WEBSITE FOR OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION

Moved by Mr. McDowell, seconded Mr. Arminio, that the Board adopt formal resolution designating Township of Union Board of Education's internet website (www.twpunionschools.org) for official notification pursuant to the New Jersey local unit pay-to-play law, in accordance with the information in the hands of each Board member.

DISCUSSION: None

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYES: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

DESIGNATE DEPOSITORIES FOR FUNDS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF UNION BOARD OF EDUCATION

Moved by Mr. McDowell, seconded by Mrs. Zuena, that the Board designate Connect One Bank, Investors Savings Bank, Wells Fargo Bank and Unity Bank as depositories for funds of the Township of Union Board of Education as currently maintained, in accordance with the list in the hands of each Board member.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Monge stated for clarification – we had an RFP for bank services and we selected ConnectOne. I'm confused about the fact that we still have accounts with these other banks. I don't know if our banking services are based on those that relate to our activities, school related and couple of others – if you guys can speak to that.

Mr. Brennan stated one bank is for scholarship fund which is Wells Fargo. Unity Bank is for our unemployment compensation. One is for a trust fund. Mr. Monge stated so we have no control in the process of selecting the banks relating to those accounts. The reason why I'm asking is that we go through a process to try to select the best interest rate and I think that there is a process that all accounts should benefit from, especially with the scholarship fund or otherwise.

Mr. Brennan stated I wasn't here last year but you went out just for our regular banking services but we can talk about that Mr. Monge and RFP for those as well. I will do some research on that and make sure we can do that. Mr. Monge stated I appreciate that and provide it to the Finance Committee.

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYES: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

AUTHORIZE DEPOSITORY BANKS TO HONOR AND CHARGE ACCOUNTS OF TOWNSHIP OF UNION BOARD OF EDUCATION

Moved by Mr. McDowell, seconded by Dr. Francis, that the Board authorize the following depository banks to honor and to charge the accounts of the Township of Union Board of Education and all Board of Education checks and drafts bearing the stamp or perforation commonly known as a facsimile signature of the Treasurer of School Monies and the President of the Board of Education and that checks and drafts of the various Board of Education accounts be signed by the designated officers, in accordance with the list in the hands of each board member.

DISCUSSION: None

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYES: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

H. EDUCATION/STUDENT DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS

Moved by Mr. McDowell, seconded by Mrs. Zuena, that the following resolution be approved.

E-1. APPROVE CHILD OF EMPLOYEE TO ATTEND UNION TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

That the Board approve child of Employee #11780 to attend Union Township Public Schools for the 2016-2017 school year, tuition free, in accordance with the information appended to the non-public minutes.

DISCUSSION:

Mrs. Minneci asked since we are new are we allowed to vote on this? Mr. Arminio and Mr. Griggs both stated yes. Mr. McDowell stated they can abstain.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mr. Arminio, Dr. Francis, Mr. Monge, Mr. Nufrio, Mrs. Regis-Darby,
Mrs. Zuena, Mr. McDowell

NAYES: None

ABSTAIN: Mrs. Minneci, Mrs. Williams

MOTION CARRIED

I. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Tatum stated I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back Mrs. Darby on her re-election and to welcome Mrs. Minneci and Mrs. Williams to the Board. I know as a former educator and long-time parent here in the District you will do a fine job and please feel free if there is any information that you need clarifications from my office, do not hesitate to reach out at any time.

Also I would like to congratulate Mr. McDowell and Mrs. Zuena and our new President and Vice President and to take this opportunity to pay homage to the two former Presidents, Mr. Arminio and Mr. Nufrio for their fine service and I look forward to working together for the betterment of the District and our students as we move forward in 2017.

Mr. Monge stated for preparation of next week. I mentioned a couple of items so we can be prepared for our worksession meeting. We have been talking about the Long-Term Facility Plan for a long time and I think we need to have a real plan to make this happen. It has been on the table for a long time and the Property Conditions Report on our facilities to be part of that plan. My concern with that is the next thing that is going to follow us is the capital project ideas but we still have not done any assessments of our facilities. How do we know what we should be doing first, second and so on. We have some projects that we had spoken about and talked about taking some steps towards that which we are still waiting for.

Can you give us an update on the boilers and roof? Is that something you can provide? Mr. Brennan stated Mr. Loessel came into my office this morning and said there was progress made and that the boiler that we witnessed being put together is now finished. As far as the roofs, they are all complete. We are now waiting for the contractor to remove that boiler that was adjacent to the new boiler which we thought should have been taken out prior to the installation but anyway that is where we are on those projects.

We did get one quote back from EI Associates on the Long-Range Facility Plan and I know Barry has reached out to the architects because I know you had a conversation with him at the last meeting. He is trying to get that information for us to move forward.

Mr. Monge stated it would be great to get an update on the technology – InfoSnap progress. I don't know if we are having email issues. Mr. Brennan stated the only email situation I came across today and I don't think it is the email server or anything like that because that has been resolved. When you attach a file and send it to whomever in the District – make sure the name of the file doesn't have a special character like a "period" because I found the filter system blocks files from going out or coming in if it has them in there. Mr. Monge stated we can talk about that next week. There is an opportunity to have an automated message to warn folks that it didn't go through. I think that is something we would speak to.

Mr. Nufrio stated with respect to the files that may be attached and you are not able to edit so what happens then? Mr. Brennan stated I will take that up to the Director of Technologies attention or Mr. Tatum can talk to her. We will get to her.

Mr. Monge stated for the academy, we are kicking this off and we have had some parents from Kawameeh that haven't received any information. Mr. Tatum stated it was just brought to my attention about 15 minutes ago and I will be reaching out to the administrator of that program the moment we adjourn and we will clarify that. Mr. Monge stated I think tomorrow is going to be too late for the Kawameeh parents. Mr. Tatum stated it may have actually already have gone out. It probably should have gone out before we went on vacation so people would have known but unfortunately it was not but moving forward with the program certainly a timeline will have to be adhered to.

Dr. Francis asked are the ChromeBooks going to be available in January or February? Mr. Tatum stated I know January was a target date but there were more internal issues that were being worked on during the last week. Mrs. Moses stated looking at the end of January or middle of February. Dr. Francis asked is that for seniors? Mrs. Moses stated all students at the high school.

Mrs. Zuena asked was the infrastructure completed over the holiday as expected? Mr. Brennan stated a good portion of it. Mrs. Moses stated a good portion was completed and I think Comcast is coming in on the 6th when they get patrol outside to help them with the underground bandwidth. The infrastructure and the fiber went through and everything is running on schedule.

J. NEW BUSINESS
None

K. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mrs. Lipstein stated I would like to congratulate the new Board members and congratulate Mr. McDowell and Mrs. Zuena on their new positions. I look forward to seeing the progress that we had going on for the past couple of years to continue. I remember Mr. Salcedo said the same thing when he said he liked the direction that the Board was going in and so do I and I like to see it continue.

I also wanted to comment on the Academy Program. I just heard from Mr. Terezza that this meeting is not being broadcast live now but it will be broadcast tomorrow night. When people are watching and if they are able to go to that meeting that is great – it is at 7 p.m. on January 4th. If not I'm sure there will be another one. I was a big fan of the Academy when it was first done several years ago. I think it is improved and one improvement of course is that there is no fee so anybody can go and everyone that is involved has probably made it even better than it was because they learned from what had happened – what worked and didn't work. I really like to encourage parents to find out about it because it is a great additional educational experience for your children and I believe that any additional educational experiences that children can have only makes it better for them and for us and for the world because they are going to be going out into it. Parents find out about it and contact Mr. Harrell because he is the person in charge. I have a great confidence in him and the District that this program will be better than it was.

Anne Margaret Shannon stated Happy New Year everybody. As the President of the Union Township Education Association I want to congratulate everyone and the Vice President is also here and on behalf of the two of us and all of our membership we are very excited to work with you to really develop a robust and excellent education for all of our students.

L. MOTION TO ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the Board, it was moved by Mr. Arminio, seconded by Mrs. Darby, that the meeting be adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYES: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

GREGORY E. BRENNAN
BOARD SECRETARY