

TOWNSHIP OF UNION BOARD OF EDUCATION
ORGANIZATION MEETING AGENDA
JANUARY 9, 2018

(originally scheduled for 01/04/18-rescheduled due to snowstorm)

NOTICE OF MEETING:

The organization meeting of the Township of Union Board of Education was held on Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the Union High School Library, 2350 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 re-elected and two were newly elected: Mr. Vito Nufrio, Mrs. Sherry Higgins and Mrs. Linda Richardson.
- D. Announcement of Newly-elected Board Members:
 - 1. Sherry L. Higgins
 - 2. Vito A. Nufrio
 - 3. Linda Richardson
- E. Present at Roll Call:
Mr. David Arminio, Dr. Guy Francis, Mrs. Sherry Higgins, Mrs. Nancy Minneci, Mr. Jeffrey Monge, Mr. Vito Nufrio, Mrs. Nellis Regis-Darby, Mrs. Linda Richardson, Mrs. Mary Lynn Williams

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. Mission Statement was read by Mr. Monge.
- H. Organization

PRESIDENT

The Board Secretary called for nominations for the Office of President

Moved by Mrs. Richardson, seconded by Mrs. Williams that Vito Nufrio be nominated for the Office of President

The Board Secretary called for other nominations

Moved by Dr. Francis, seconded by Mrs. Regis-Darby that David Arminio 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.

Moved by Mr. Nufrio, seconded by Mr. Arminio that the nominations for the Office of President be closed.

AYES:	Mr. Arminio, Dr. Francis, Mrs. Higgins, Mrs. Minneci, Mr. Monge, Mr. Nufrio, Mrs. Regis-Darby, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Williams	
NAYES:	None	
ABSTAIN:	None	MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Griggs stated you will take one vote for two nominees. Whoever gets the most votes is the Board President.

VOTE FOR PRESIDENT – Mr. Nufrio
Mrs. Higgins, Mrs. Minneci, Mr. Nufrio, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Williams

VOTE FOR PRESIDENT – Mr. Arminio
Mr. Arminio, Dr. Francis, Mr. Monge, Mrs. Regis-Darby

Mr. Griggs stated Mr. Nufrio has been appointed President. Mr. Nufrio stated thank you all.

Mr. Nufrio assumed the chair as President.

VICE PRESIDENT

Mr. Nufrio called for nominations for the Office of Vice President

Moved by Mr. Nufrio, seconded by Mrs. Richardson that Mrs. Minneci be nominated for the Office of Vice President.

Moved by Dr. Francis, seconded by Mr. Arminio, that Mrs. Regis-Darby be nominated for the Office of Vice President.

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

Moved by Mr. Monge, seconded by Mrs. Minneci, that the nominations for Office of Vice President be closed.

AYES: Mr. Arminio, Dr. Francis, Mrs. Higgins, Mrs. Minneci, Mr. Monge, Mr. Nufrio,
Mrs. Regis-Darby, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Williams
NAYES: None
ABSTAIN: None MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Nufrio stated we have two nominations for the Office of Vice President.

VOTE FOR VICE PRESIDENT – Mrs. Minneci
Mrs. Higgins, Mrs. Minneci, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Williams, Mr. Nufrio

VOTE FOR VICE PRESIDENT – Mrs. Regis-Darby
Mr. Arminio, Dr. Francis, Mr. Monge, Mrs. Regis-Darby,

Mr. Nufrio stated congratulations to Mrs. Minneci. Before we start this meeting, I would like to wish everyone a happy new year and hopefully this year will be one that this Board will be proud to continue in the progress that we have begun and the progress that the children and the District are looking for. We have a fine Board of Education. All members are dedicated and hopefully we will continue the progress.

Residents be certain that each of us carries an independent voice and we will do so accordingly and execute all matters accordingly.

MEETING NIGHTS

Moved by Mr. Nufrio, seconded by Mrs. Minneci, that the schedule of committee meetings, work sessions and regular meetings be adopted in accordance with the schedule, appended to the minutes; 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

AYES: Mr. Arminio, Dr. Francis, Mrs. Higgins, Mrs. Minneci, Mr. Monge,
Mrs. Regis-Darby, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Williams, Mr. Nufrio
NAYES: None
ABSTAIN: None MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Griggs stated one point – in your list of meetings, we are going to have to address tonight because it is listed as a committee/worksession so the Board needs to make a decision as to the month of January with regard to the worksession, worksession combined with the regular meeting or whatever the pleasure of the Board.

Mr. Nufrio stated that is correct, thank you for bringing that to our attention. I would recommend to the Board to consider moving forward with next Tuesday as the worksession and do the regular meeting the following Tuesday - if it meets with everyone’s approval or at least the majority. Do we need to do a roll call on this?

Mr. Griggs stated yes, essentially you have to approve an amended schedule of meetings.

Moved by Mr. Nufrio, seconded by Mrs. Richardson, to have the January worksession on January 16th and the regular meeting on January 23rd.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Monge stated I’m not sure but maybe we can have the worksession and regular meeting on one day. Mr. Nufrio stated we are not doing that. This Tuesday the worksession and the following Tuesday would be the regular meeting.

Mr. Monge stated I understand that. Mr. Nufrio stated tonight would have been the regular worksession but because of the snowstorm, here we are. Mr. Monge stated in the summer time we have one meeting – so instead of having three meetings this month, we can have one. It’s an idea to combine both.

Mr. Nufrio stated it would be difficult to do because the worksession is essential for this Board to look over the agenda and giving Mr. Tatum, myself and Mrs. Minneci will also accompany me on the agenda review, I still maintain that the schedule I’m proposing would be next Tuesday worksession and the following Tuesday the regular meeting. We do have another Tuesday which we can look at but that is at the very end of the month. Because it is January, we could encounter another snowstorm. Let’s leave that day open.

AYES: Mrs. Higgins, Mrs. Minneci, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Williams, Mr. Nufrio
NAYES: Mr. Arminio, Dr. Francis, Mr. Monge, Mrs. Regis-Darby
ABSTAIN: None MOTION CARRIED

POLICY MANUAL

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

DISCUSSION: None

AYES: Mr. Arminio, Dr. Francis, Mrs. Higgins, Mrs. Minneci, Mr. Monge,
Mrs. Regis-Darby, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Williams, Mr. Nufrio
NAYES: None
ABSTAIN: None MOTION CARRIED

DESIGNATE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS

Moved by Mrs. Minnici, seconded by Mr. Richardson, that the Board adopt the formal resolution appended to the minutes 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 2018.

DISCUSSION: None

AYES: Mr. Arminio, Dr. Francis, Mrs. Higgins, Mrs. Minnici, Mr. Monge,
Mrs. Regis-Darby, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Williams, Mr. Nufrio

NAYES: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

DESIGNATE INTERNET WEBSITE FOR OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION

Moved by Mrs. Higgins, seconded by Mrs. Richardson, that the Board adopt formal resolution designating the 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 appended to the minutes.

DISCUSSION: None

AYES: Mr. Arminio, Dr. Francis, Mrs. Higgins, Mrs. Minnici, Mr. Monge,
Mrs. Regis-Darby, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Williams, Mr. Nufrio

NAYES: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

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

Moved by Mrs. Richardson, seconded by Mrs. Minnici, that the Board designate ConnectOne 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 appended to the minutes.

DISCUSSION: None

AYES: Mr. Arminio, Dr. Francis, Mrs. Higgins, Mrs. Minnici, Mr. Monge,
Mrs. Regis-Darby, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Williams, Mr. Nufrio

NAYES: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

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

Moved by Mr. Monge, seconded by Mrs. Minnici, that the Board authorize the following depository banks be and are hereby authorized 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 appended to the minutes.

DISCUSSION: None

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

NAYES: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Nufrio asked did we have a majority on the scheduling of the next two meetings?
Mrs. Cappiello stated yes it was 5-4.

Mr. Nufrio stated at this time I would like the Board members to submit to me via email your requests or preference on committee assignments. This way I will review your requests and move forward with it. I appreciate if I could get it by Friday if possible.

I. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
None

J. NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Arminio stated I would like to remind everyone that Monday is Martin Luther King's Day and there is a gathering at Hannah Caldwell School. I hope everyone comes out to that.

Today and I wish everyone could have been there – Union High School had an assembly this morning and it was a World War II veteran named Bob Max who shared his story to 400 high students. Mr. Max was a college student in Ohio and he and his fraternity brothers decided to enlist in the Army to fight against the Nazis in World War II. He entered the Army and during the Battle of the Bulge which was in 1944, he was captured and sent not to just a POW camp but to a slave labor camp because he was Jewish. He went from, among many other details, 155 pounds when he was captured to 89 pounds when he was liberated by US troops at the end of the war. He came back to the United States and spent 10 months in a hospital recuperating from the way he was treated.

The 400 students, including the entire ROTC, who attended were spell bound by his story. You can go on the internet and he has a website called "*The Long Journey Home*" and find out more details.

The Freeholders, the Township Committee and the Board of Education were represented at the assembly and I think we owe a special thanks to Sgt. Michael Boll who spearheaded this along with Nicole Ahern to get him here to speak to the students. It was an amazing two hours listening to him talk about his experiences in World War II.

By the way the ROTC had done a fundraising and collected over \$3,000 and donated to the Puerto Rican Hurricane Relief Fund and Sgt. Boll will forward it to the group in Puerto Rico.

Mr. Monge stated through Sgt. Boll's not-for-profit organization, a collection of Union residents, shortly after Maria hit Puerto Rico, gathered together and started an initiative called the 21 Project after Roberto Clemente, a historic baseball figure but also a humanitarian who lost his life trying to offer his service to earthquake victims in Latin America. We were trying to raise \$21,000 and we did a great job raising that money for the United Puerto Rico which has raised millions of dollars and putting out funds. I am very thankful to the students and the ROTC for making that possible to reach our goal. That is amazing – God bless you.

Mr. Nufrio stated with regards to Mr. Max – something just came to mind. I would suggest that this Board consider drafting a resolution to honor Mr. Max and make it a formal presentation and if we can get him to come at the regular meeting. If he can't we can still draft a resolution and send it to him. Mr. Arminio will you take charge of that.

Mr. Monge stated we found out a couple of days ago about the ROTC's efforts and if there could be some acknowledgement to the ROTC and their efforts. Mr. Nufrio stated you can do that as well. I would suggest since Mr. Max in all likelihood cannot attend, I will request a copy of the DVD so he can view it at home – seeing how the Board acknowledged his life.

K. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Mrs. Susan Lipstein stated I am speaking here as a private citizen. Ordinarily I don't come up at a reorganization meeting. I clap and say a quick prayer that the Board will do what it is supposed to do and do the best for the District.

This year I am speaking because the campaign from November is now over and a lot of the campaign ugliness that upset the community and I haven't gotten over it yet. But I want to talk about the literature that was sent out that gave total misinformation about the state of our school district and a lot of people believe it and I am concerned that the new Board members may have believed it as well. Concerned citizens contacted the Superintendent and we all received a five page response to the information that was sent out. I can't read all of it – but #2 – violent incidents increased 78% which was in that literature – and according to the truth, the violence did not increase, data for 2015-16 and 2016-17 indicated that it decreased by 2 incidence of violence. In order for everyone to be on the same leveled playing field today, I am going to hand out a copy of this response to all the Board members and a copy to the secretary because I think it should be included in the minutes.

If we really are going to be working together to make a better school district, we all need to be on the same baseline of understanding where this District is and not with whatever was given out in the campaign.

I also want to say that I'm a little upset about changing the dates of the meeting. It has been posted already and I know I always clear my schedule to try to make this meeting and I think a lot of people were surprised tonight about going to two meetings, especially some Board members who said that they cannot come. I just find that a little disconcerting to me that we are now going to have to have votes and a power battle it appears of these meetings. I am not getting a good feeling about that and I think maybe you should go back and schedule that

meeting in one day and catch up everybody because I think it can be done. That is what I would do. You have people that said that they couldn't come. I don't think that is the way to do that. That is my impression of what happened here. I think you all need to cooperate and get together and that is what we need to do and you need to think about that as well.

Document from Mrs. Lipstein appended to minutes.

Mr. Nufrio stated thank you Mrs. Lipstein and I am listening to that comment. I guess with all due respect the only individual who expressed that he was not able to attend is Mr. Monge. Mrs. Lipstein stated I'm just asking for the kind of cooperation and integrity.

Mr. Nufrio stated I would like to ask the Board if there are any other Board members that will not be able to attend the 23rd? Mrs. Regis-Darby and Dr. Francis both stated they could not.

Mr. Nufrio stated Mr. Griggs may I go back to that resolution/vote and ask for a reconsideration of it given the circumstances since I only knew of the one individual.

Mr. Griggs stated you can do a motion for reconsideration.

Moved by Mr. Nufrio, seconded by Mrs. Minneci, for reconsideration of the meetings.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Monge stated other folks that had plans to come to the regular meeting – those plans could now be an issue. Mrs. Lipstein stated you need to work with the community.

Mr. Nufrio stated the only concern I had was whether or not Mr. Tatum and the rest of Central Office was prepared to move forward with the resolutions. Mr. Tatum stated we haven't had our agenda review yet, it is scheduled for tomorrow afternoon at 2 p.m. and I'm not in this week, I'm doing this on my vacation time. Mr. Nufrio stated if we can do it in the morning or later in the afternoon that would be fine. Mr. Griggs stated you have 2 p.m. with me. Mr. Tatum stated 12 noon then. Mr. Nufrio stated that is fine.

Mr. Tatum stated as far as the 23rd is concerned it is reserved for a meeting but at this stage of the game, I don't know if any of the Assistant Superintendents are available that night and I certainly know I am not but if need be I can readjust my schedule but at this point I'm not available on that evening.

Mr. Nufrio stated I don't have a problem with that and that is why we have another resolution to consider but I wish you would have spoken up.

Mr. Monge stated what about January 30th. Mr. Nufrio stated I don't think it is wise to use that date again based on January and unforeseen stormy weather. Right now the motion is to schedule both meetings for next Tuesday. Unless we are going to do the committee meetings, then we would start at regular committee times. The condition that we are going to reschedule next week is that it is a combined worksession/regular meeting and then we go by the schedule

of the worksession committee meetings which usually start at 5:30. We will still have to do it here since it is a regular meeting as well. I guess we can have committees here.

Mr. Tatum stated I will work with the high school administration to find rooms to have committee meetings. Mr. Nufrio stated we can do that tomorrow after we conclude the agenda review and we will have a better understanding and then we can inform the rest of the Board where the committee meetings will be. Since we are going to be doing that, I stress that you send me your preferences for committee assignments by Thursday.

Mr. Tatum stated residency meetings – she rescheduled those meetings for next week because they were supposed to be tonight. I think you can have them at the Administration Building but I guess it is how it crosses over with other committees. How it worked out last year there wasn't any crossover between the committees. If there are no crossover I think we will be o.k.

Mr. Nufrio stated that is why there is an urgency for you to get preference list to me for committee assignments. I will be sure to have that returned to you by Friday.

Mr. Griggs stated right now you have on the floor a motion for reconsideration so you need to take action on that and then you need a motion to schedule the meeting you described.

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

NAYES: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Mr. Nufrio, seconded by Mrs. Minneci, to schedule both worksession, which is inclusive of committee meetings, and it will start at the regular schedule times of 5:30 for next Tuesday, January 16th at 7 p.m. and we will do a combined worksession/regular meeting.

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

NAYES: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Ann Margaret Shannon stated I want to congratulate Mr. Nufrio on the election and Mrs. Higgins and Mrs. Richardson to welcome you to the Board and a special thank you for some of the people sitting over here - thank you for working with us and we appreciate it.

Mr. Nufrio stated I want to also acknowledge the presence of Mrs. Zuena and Mr. McDowell and I hope we continue to see you in the future because you are still part of this ensemble. Thank you for the service that you gave this District as well.

L. MOTION TO ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the Board, it was moved by Mr. Arminio, seconded by Mr. Monge, that the meeting be adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

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

NAYES: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Nufrio stated thank you everyone for coming and Happy New Year.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

GREGORY E. BRENNAN
BOARD SECRETARY