

TOWNSHIP OF UNION BOARD OF EDUCATION
WORKSESSION MINUTES – February 13, 2024

NOTICE OF MEETING:

TO ALL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS:

The worksession meeting of the Board of Education of the Township of Union was held on Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom (due to snow) pursuant to the notice sent to each member. Action was taken.

Ms. Santana called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:

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

ABSENT AT ROLL CALL:

None

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Mr. Christopher Buggy, Esq.

Mr. Cohan led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Cohan informed the Board and community to remember the pledge is a complete thought and the second part is a belief. We need to think about what words mean and lead our lives that way.

Mr. Cohan read the district's mission statement.

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

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes will be approved at the Board's regular meeting.

Communications:

Communications are part of personnel and operations.

Comments from Public (on resolutions and all other matters):

Jill Hall stated that summer school will be with limitations due to funding but it needs to be available to all students. Her suggestion is to charge the students for summer school.

Ms. Santana asked Jill Hall to email the Superintendent, Ms. Carbonell and herself concerning this matter.

Ann Margaret Shannon stated it was difficult to get on the Zoom tonight so please work on it but she believes the meetings should be in person.

Superintendent's Report:

The Superintendent's Report, together with the report from the student liaisons, special education audit presentation and the auditor's presentation will be next week.

Education/Student Discipline Committee Resolutions:

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following resolution was moved by Mr. Cohan, seconded by Mrs. Williams, for adoption:

E-1. AFFIRM SUPERINTENDENT'S DETERMINATION OF HIB

Affirm the Superintendent's determination of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) for the periods January 10, 2024 to January 23, 2024, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

E-1A. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT OF HIB

Superintendent's Report of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) for the period January 24, 2024 to February 13, 2024, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes (*no vote required; for reporting purposes only*).

DISCUSSION:

None

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Cohan presented the Education/Student Discipline Committee agenda and stated E-8- create an amendment for the American Rescue Plan Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY) supplemental funding is being removed from the agenda per discussions at the committee meeting.

Fiscal and Planning Committee Resolutions:

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following resolution was moved by Ms. Carbonell, seconded by Mrs. Williams, for adoption:

F-7. APPROVE DISTRICTWIDE STUDENT FIELD TRIPS

Approve districtwide student field trip destinations and purposes pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.8, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

DISCUSSION:

None

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following resolution was moved by Ms. Carbonell, seconded by Mrs. Minneci, for adoption:

F-9A. APPROVED LIST OF CONTRACTS/PURCHASES (STUDENT ACTIVITY)

Approve the attached list of 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	Cosmetology	IBS – to pay for 30 tickets to International Beauty Show- March 5, 2024	\$1,140.00
Union High School	9004/Damage to School Property	UTBOE - funds should have been deposited into Maintenance Budget not Student Activities	\$1,040.15
Union High School	2077/Theatre	11hour Design – scenic and graphic design for Mean Girls	\$4,968.00
Union High School	2001/Theatre	Concord Theatricals – licensing for Advanced Musical Theatre production- You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown	\$2,000.00 (not to exceed)
Union High School	2077/Theatre	Ryan Sautner – lighting design and programming for Mean Girls	\$2,250.00
Union High School	2001/Theatre	Concord Theatricals – licensing for Advanced Musical Theatre production of You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown	\$2,000.00 (not to exceed)
Union High School	2077/theatre	Audio Inc. – audio equipment rental for UHSPAC production of Mean Girls	\$7,500.00 (not to exceed)
Kawameeh Middle School	26	Jostens – 2023-2024 KMS yearbooks	\$1,973.20
Burnet Middle School	2006	Charter Up – transportation to Philadelphia Orchestra – March 21, 2024	\$2,000.00 (not to exceed)

DISCUSSION:

None

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Ms. Carbonell presented the remainder of the Fiscal and Planning Committee agenda.

DISCUSSION:

None

Operations Committee Resolutions:

Mrs. Scott-Hayden presented the Operations Committee agenda and the discussion items.

The following discussion item is a yearly request from the Chamber of Commerce and will be placed on next week's agenda.

REQUEST FROM TOWNSHIP OF UNION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – UHS FACILITY

Request from Township of Union Chamber of Commerce to use the Union High School facility site for the Chamber's 13th Annual Mayor's Day 5K Run, Sunday, September 29, 2024 (rain date – only in event of severe weather-October 13, 2024), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

Board members had concerns regarding the following request concerning the music video. Dr. Benaquista stated he will need to discuss this item with the Board's attorney and request more information to vet this item. He would get back to the Board next week.

REQUEST FROM BRANDIN THOMPSON – UHS

Request from Brandin Thompson (UHS 2023 graduate) requesting use of Union High School to record a music video (during off school hours), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

Personnel Committee Resolutions:

Mrs. Minneci presented the Personnel Committee agenda.

DISCUSSION:

None

Policy Committee:

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following policies/regulations were presented by Mrs. Williams and seconded by Mr. Cohan, for **FIRST READING**:

POL-1. APPROVE POLICY 2270 – RELIGION IN SCHOOLS

Approve Policy 2270 – Religion in Schools.

POL-2. APPROVE POLICY 3161 – EXAMINATION FOR CAUSE

Approve Policy 3161 – Examination for Cause.

POL-3. APPROVE POLICY 3212 – ATTENDANCE

Approve Policy 3212 – Attendance.

POL-4. APPROVE REGULATION 3212 – ATTENDANCE

Approve Regulation 3212 – Attendance.

POL-5. APPROVE POLICY 3324 – RIGHT OF PRIVACY

Approve Policy 3324 – Right of Privacy.

POL-6. APPROVE POLICY 4161 – EXAMINATION FOR CAUSE

Approve Policy 4161 – Examination for Cause.

POL-7. APPROVE POLICY 4212 – ATTENDANCE

Approve Policy 4212 – Attendance.

POL-8. APPROVE REGULATION 4212 – ATTENDANCE

Approve Regulation 4212 – Attendance.

POL-9. APPROVE POLICY 4324 – RIGHT OF PRIVACY

Approve Policy 4324 – Right of Privacy.

POL-10. APPROVE POLICY 5116 – EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTHS

Approve Policy 5116 – Education of Homeless Children and Youths.

POL-11. APPROVE REGULATION 5116 – EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTHS

Approve Regulation 5116 – Education of Homeless Children and Youths.

POL-12. APPROVE POLICY 8500 – FOOD SERVICES (M)

Approve Policy 8500 – Food Services.

DISCUSSION:

None

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Residency Committee Resolutions:

Mrs. Minneci presented the Residence Committee agenda.

Approval of Bills:

Bills will be approved next week.

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

Mrs. Minneci reported to the Board that two of our JROTC students, Joselyn DeSalguero and Neissa Filias, have been accepted to West Point. We should be very proud of our students.

Ms. Carbonell reported that she attended the Battle Hill PTA spaghetti dinner on Friday. It was nice and the meatballs were amazing. She also stated that the ambience was what we should have in all of our schools.

MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Moved by Mrs. Williams, seconded by Mr. Cohan, that the Board go into Executive Session at 7:38 p.m. to discuss the following subject matters without the presence of the public in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b: personnel, legal updates.

Please take notice that minutes will be taken of the discussion conducted during the executive session and the Board will disclose the minutes of the executive session when the disclosure will not result in unwarranted invasion of individual privacy or prejudice to the best interests 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.

Action may be taken when the Board reconvenes in public session.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

The Board returned to public session at 8:56 p.m.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the Board in public session it was moved by Mrs. Minneci, seconded by Mrs. Conteh-Mackey, that the meeting be adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Yolanda Koon

YOLANDA KOON
BOARD SECRETARY

