

TOWNSHIP OF UNION BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Board Retreat
Kean University (William F. Loehning Conference Center)
March 18, 2023

NOTICE OF MEETING:

TO ALL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS:

The retreat of the Board of Education of the Township of Union was held on Saturday, March 18, 2023 at 9:00 p.m. at Kean University, William F. Loehning Conference Center, Union, New Jersey 07083 pursuant to the notice sent to each member.

Ms. McKenzie called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:

Ms. Dixiana Carbonell, Ms. Marissa McKenzie, Mrs. Nancy Minneci, Mr. John O'Shea, Ms. Chastity Santana, Mrs. Kimberly Scott-Hayden

ABSENT AT ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Yocasta Brens-Watson (9:26 a.m.), Mrs. Nellis Regis-Darby (9:26 a.m.), Mrs. Mary Lynn Williams (9:35 a.m.)

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Dr. Scott Taylor, Mr. Gerald Benaquista, Dr. Gretel Perez Mrs. Yolanda Koon

ALSO PRESENT:

Patricia Rees (New Jersey School Board Association)
Elizabeth Riley-Williams and Tammy Bormman (DASH, LLC)

Ms. Santana led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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.

Ms. Santana read the district's mission statement.

New Jersey School Board Association:

Patricia Rees shared with the Board the various steps to achieve a good set of goals. Her main points focused on 3-5 areas. Note that goals are your foundation for a successful outcome. Having effective communication and accountability are characteristics of formulating the planning of Board goals.

- Professional Development - what PD does the members need for self-evaluation as a board; and
- Professional Development - what is needed to help support the district goals.

Board needs an action plan to fulfill these points. Also set dates and monitor the progress.

Ms. Rees then went to explain the process of the CSA evaluation. She highlighted that any board member who relative works in the district may not take part in the evaluation process. That this is the board's oversight and appraisal of effective management in a school district. She briefly stated the timeline. Also she will send us more information pertaining to this.

Board members asked questions during the presentation for clarification. The Board thanked Ms. Rees for her time.

The Board took a 5-10 minutes break.

[DASH, LLC:](#)

Next was the DASH, LLC. (Elizabeth Riley-William & Tammy Bormman) – who are here to help organizations with consultation and training on diversity, equity and inclusion.

We opened up by introducing ourselves and to answer what each will give and what we expect to receive from this training.

They spoke about 'safe space. We watched a brief clip from Jama Shelton, PhD, Silberman School of Social Work. We talked about Save vs Brave spaces.

Board members were very engaged, and some questions and answers were shared. There were several questions asked of us and we had a couple of activities to do in groups. We ended up compiling a lot of ideas and suggestions to come up with a covenant (agreement) that will be shared at a later date.

Ended retreat with a good lunch and fellowship.

[Comments from Public](#)

No public in attendance.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the Board in public session it was moved by Mrs. Scott-Hayden, seconded by Ms. Carbonell, that the meeting be adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

AYE: Mrs. Brens-Watson, Ms. Carbonell, Mrs. Minneci, Mr. O'Shea,
Mrs. Regis-Darby, Ms. Santana, Mrs. Scott-Hayden, Mrs. Williams, Ms. McKenzie

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Yolanda Koon

YOLANDA KOON
BOARD SECRETARY