

TOWNSHIP OF UNION BOARD OF EDUCATION  
WORKSESSION MINUTES – September 13, 2022

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, September 13, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Administration Building, 2369 Morris Avenue, Union, New Jersey pursuant to the notice sent to each member. Action was taken.

Mrs. Williams called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Yocasta Brens-Watson, Dr. Guy Francis, Ms. Marissa McKenzie, Mrs. Nancy Minneci, Mr. John O’Shea, Ms. Chastity Santana, Mrs. Kimberly Scott-Hayden, Mrs. Mary Lynn Williams

ABSENT AT ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Nellis Regis-Darby (7:03 p.m.)

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Dr. Scott Taylor, Mr. Gerald Benaquista, Dr. Gretel Perez, Mrs. Yolanda Koon (via Zoom)

ALSO PRESENT:

Mr. Christopher Buggy, Esq.

Mrs. Scott-Hayden led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Koon read the statement required under the “Open Public Meetings Act”, a copy of which is on file in the office of the Board Secretary.

Mrs. Scott-Hayden read the district’s mission statement.

Comments from Public on Resolutions:

None

Approval of Minutes:

Approval of the minutes will be approved next week.

Communications:

Communications are part of personnel.

Superintendent’s Report:

Dr. Taylor stated that at next week’s meeting he will give an update on the current data from the high school registration; identifying a handful of students that are not residents of the

district and how we will proceed and how the first week of school went. Student spotlight will start in October.

Education/Student Discipline Committee Resolutions:

Mrs. Scott-Hayden presented the Education/Student Discipline Committee agenda.

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following resolutions were moved by Mrs. Scott-Hayden, seconded by Mr. O’Shea, for adoption:

E-1. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT OF HIB

Superintendent’s Report of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) for the period August 24, 2022 to September 13, 2022 (no incidences to report), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes (*no vote required; for reporting purposes only*).

E-1A. AFFIRM SUPERINTENDENT’S DETERMINATION OF HIB

Affirm the Superintendent’s determination of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) for the periods July 20, 2022-August 23, 2022, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

DISCUSSION:

Mrs. Minneci asked about E-2 – the articulation agreement with Kean University. Dr. Perez stated it was for our students taking speech communication as critical citizenship at the campus of Kean University on their own time. It does not go on their transcript. It is just an opportunity to start taking courses at Kean University – should they proceed there, it goes towards their credits.

Mrs. Regis-Darby asked about E-3 – virtual or remote instruction plan backup. Dr. Perez stated the Board would have it on next posting. This form asks specific questions that relates to each department and we have to explain how we are meeting those particular areas in each department section. The departments have this week to review and it will be in your hands by Friday. It has to be Board approved and to the County by September 30<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Regis-Darby asked if it needs to be UTEA approved? Dr. Taylor stated no.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Fiscal and Planning Committee Resolutions:

Mr. O’Shea presented the Fiscal and Planning Committee agenda.

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following resolution was moved by Mr. O’Shea, seconded by Ms. McKenzie, for adoption:

**F-7. PRE-APPROVE DISTRICTWIDE STUDENT FIELD TRIPS**

Pre-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:**

Mrs. Regis-Darby asked what is the rationale for the students to pay for sports equipment when the district should be providing the equipment? Dr. Taylor stated the equipment they purchase is beyond what the district provides; we give the basics – helmets and safety equipment and fundraising provides additional items like t-shirts.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Operations Committee Resolutions:**

Mrs. Minneci presented the Operations Committee agenda.

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following resolution was moved by Mrs. Minneci, seconded by Mrs. Scott-Hayden for adoption:

**O-2. APPROVE MOA TO JOIN ARP HCY II CONSORTIUM WITH ESSEX REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Approve Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the Township of Union Public Schools to join the ARP HCY II Consortium with the Essex Regional Educational Services School District as the lead fiscal agent which will service the McKinney Vento eligible students and families for the 2022-2023 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**DISCUSSION:**

Isabella Scocozza stated O-2 is a joint agreement between the district and Essex Regional and is part of the ESSER grant and the district will receive funds that will assist homeless families in the district. Last year we could either receive a small percentage of the fund or join a consortium and receive a larger pool of funds. You voted to join a couple of months ago and this is the agreement to join the consortium. The funds are on a first come first serve basis. The funds can be used for bus passes, school supplies, clothing, professional development for staff, parenting workshops, consulting – whatever the needs are. Once we have our first meeting, I will relay the information on what the actual amounts are that we are able to spend. Nicole Ahern and I will reach out to the counselors in the district in order to reach as many students and families as possible.

AYE: Mrs. Brens-Watson, Ms. McKenzie, Mrs. Minneci, Mr. O’Shea,  
Ms. Santana, Mrs. Scott-Hayden, Mrs. Williams

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Dr. Francis, Mrs. Regis-Darby

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Personnel Committee Resolutions:**

Ms. McKenzie presented the Personnel Committee agenda.

After Ms. McKenzie had moved and Mrs. Minneci had seconded the motion to approve personnel matters, Dr. Francis asked that the Board go into executive session to address personnel issues because there would be a vote on personnel at tonight's meeting and he had questions. After various back and forth dialogue, it was agreed to by the Board to go into executive session.

Therefore, it was moved by Mrs. Williams, seconded by Ms. Santana, to withdraw the motion on Personnel matters.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Moved by Mrs. Williams, seconded by Mrs. Minneci, that the Board go into Executive Session at 7:33 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 matters.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

The Board returned to public session at 7:58 p.m.

**Personnel Committee Resolutions:**

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following resolutions were moved by Ms. McKenzie, seconded by Mrs. Minneci, for adoption:

**P-1A. PERSONNEL ACTIONS – NEW HIRES**

Personnel Actions-New Hires be approved in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**P-1B PERSONNEL ACTIONS – EXTRA PAY**

Personnel Actions-Extra Pay be approved in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**P-1C PERSONNEL ACTIONS – TRANSFERS**

Personnel Actions- Transfers be approved in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**P-9. APPROVE CHANGE OF SALARY CLASS #2 – EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 2022**

Approve Change of Salary Class #2 (effective September 2022), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**DISCUSSION:**

None

**AYE:** Mrs. Brens-Watson, Dr. Francis, Ms. McKenzie, Mrs. Minneci, Mr. O’Shea, Mrs. Regis-Darby, Ms. Santana, Mrs. Scott-Hayden, Mrs. Williams

**NAY:** Dr. Francis (P-1A-11)

**ABSTAIN:** None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Policy Committee:**

Ms. Santana presented the Policy Committee agenda.

**DISCUSSION:**

Mrs. Koon stated that at the recommendation of Dr. Taylor, we will table Regulation 3270 (POL-4) for further review. Dr. Taylor stated there is additional information he wants to collect from the employees in the district.

Dr. Francis stated POL-11 – states students will be assigned to Alternate Education Program if they use a recording device during school. Dr. Taylor stated it is a gray area but if we feel it is being used to do harm or breach student confidentiality, it may go that route. District attorneys were consulted. After further discussion, it was agreed that under POL-11 – Regulation 5600 – that the word “may” would replace “will” in paragraph 2(d)(1).

Moved by Ms. Santana, seconded by Ms. McKenzie that the following Regulation 3270 would be tabled and removed from the agenda for further review and Regulation 5600 – Student Discipline/Code of Conduct will be amended to read “may” (remove “will”) in paragraph 2(d)(1).

**POL-4. REGULATION 3270 – INSTRUCTIONAL PLANS AND PLAN BOOKS (NEW)**

Approve Regulation 3270 – Instructional Plans and Plan Books (**agenda item tabled for further review**).

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following policies were moved by Ms. Santana, seconded by Ms. McKenzie for adoption:

**POL-1. ABOLISH POLICY 1648.14**

Approve the abolishment of Policy 1648.14 – Safety Plan for Healthcare Settings in School Buildings – COVID-19 (*final reading*).

**POL-2. POLICY 7410 – MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR (M)**

Approve Policy 7410 – Maintenance and Repair, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes (*final reading*).

**POL-3. REGULATION 7410.01 – FACILITIES MAINTENANCE, REPAIR SCHEDULING AND ACCOUNTING (M)**

Approve Regulation 7410.01 – Facilities Maintenance, Repair Scheduling and Accounting, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes (*final reading*).

**POL-5. POLICY 5722 – STUDENT JOURNALISM (M) (NEW)**

Approve Policy 5722 – Student Journalism, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes (*final reading*).

**POL-6. POLICY 1648.15 – RECORDKEEPING FOR HEALTHCARE SETTINGS IN SCHOOL BUILDINGS – COVID-19 (NEW) (M)**

Approve Policy 1648.15 – Recordkeeping for Healthcare Settings in School Buildings – COVID-19, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes (*final reading*).

**POL-7. POLICY 8420 – EMERGENCY AND CRISIS SITUATIONS (M)**

Approve Policy 8420 – Emergency and Crisis Situations, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes (*final reading*).

**POL-8. POLICY 9320 – COOPERATION WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES (M)**

Approve Policy 9320 – Cooperation with Law Enforcement Agencies, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes (*final reading*).

**POL-9. REGULATION 9320 – COOPERATION WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES (M)**

Approve Regulation 9320 – Cooperation with Law Enforcement Agencies, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes (*final reading*).

**POL-10. ABOLISH POLICY 2432 – SCHOOL SPONSORED PUBLICATIONS**

Abolish Policy 2432 – School Sponsored Publication (*final reading*).

**POL-11. REGULATION 5600 – STUDENT DISCIPLINE/CODE OF CONDUCT**

Approve Regulation 5600 – Student Discipline/Code of Conduct, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes (*final reading*).

**POL-12. REGULATION 2624 – GRADING SYSTEM**

Approve Regulation 2624 – Grading System, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes (*final reading*).

AYE: Mrs. Brens-Watson, Dr. Francis, Ms. McKenzie, Mrs. Minneci, Mr. O’Shea,

Mrs. Regis-Darby, Ms. Santana, Mrs. Scott-Hayden, Mrs. Williams

NAY: Mrs. Regis-Darby (POL-8, POL-9, POL-11, POL-12)

ABSTAIN: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

Ms. Santana presented the following policies, regulations, bylaws for first reading:

**POL-13. BYLAW 0163 – QUORUM**

Approve Bylaw 0163 – Quorum, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes. (*first reading*)

**POL-14. POLICY 1511 – BOARD OF EDUCATION WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY**

Approve Policy 1511 – Board of Education Website Accessibility, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes. (*first reading*)

**POL-15. POLICY 2415 – EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT**

Approve Policy 2415 – Every Student Succeeds Act, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes. (*first reading*)

**POL-16. POLICY 3216 – DRESS AND GROOMING**

Approve Policy 3216 – Dress and Grooming, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes. (*first reading*)

**POL-17. POLICY 3270 – PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

Approve Policy 3270 – Professional Responsibilities, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes. (*first reading*)

**POL-18. POLICY 4216 – DRESS AND GROOMING**

Approve Policy 4216 – Dress and Grooming, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes. (*first reading*)

**POL-19. POLICY 5517 – SCHOOL DISTRICT ISSUED STUDENT IDENTIFICATION CARDS**

Approve Policy 5517 – School District Issued Student Identification Cards, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes. (*first reading*)

**POL-20. POLICY 0143.2 – HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Approve Policy 0143.2 – High School Student Representative to the Board of Education, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes. (*first reading*)

**POL-21. POLICY 5513 – CARE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY**

Approve Policy 5513 – Care of School Property, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes. (*first reading*)

**POL-22. REGULATION 5513 – CARE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY**

Approve Regulation 5513 – Care of School Property, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes. (*first reading*)

**POL-23. REGULATION 9130 – PUBLIC COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES**

Approve Regulation 9130 – Public Complaints and Grievances, in connection with the information appended to the minutes. (*first reading*)

**DISCUSSION:**

Mrs. Minneci requested that in policies 3216 and 4216 that Friday's be designated as "jean day" for staff and teachers. Mr. Benaquista stated to remove "at the discretion of the principal". Dr. Taylor stated he doesn't have an issue with this.

Mrs. Regis-Darby stated that somebody is going to determine what looks tight fitting clothing – I have problems with that; it shouldn't be in the policy. Dr. Perez stated we need to be mindful of the student population. She has seen staff members wearing clothing that would be inappropriate in the school building; there is professionalism that should be exhibited by the staff and it needs to be written.

**Residency Committee Resolutions:**

Mrs. Minneci presented the Residency Committee agenda.

**DISCUSSION:**

None

**Technology Committee:**

Dr. Francis presented the Technology Committee agenda and gave the following update from the Technology Committee meeting. A summary is below:

**Old Business**

- District telephone and notification systems.
  - Update - Installation and testing completed at 8 buildings including the Central Admin office.
  - Installation of Sielox CLASS was installed on all classroom and office PCs. Installation on teacher laptops will be done remotely.



- Completion of the installation of integration between intercom/paging and Sielox CLASS systems at UHS, Jefferson, and Franklin has been done
- Working on an implementation plan for administrators, security, and teachers
- Instructional Technology - Update: Start Strong assessment
- Infrastructure E-Rate project is planned for the summer of 2022
  - Update - Installation of the network switches, battery backups, and cleaning up the wiring continues.
  - Many of the data wiring racks were cleaned up and new UPS (battery back-ups) have been installed.
  - Hannah Caldwell, Franklin, Washington, and Jefferson are completed at this time. Battle Hill was completed on 8/23/22.
- Cyber-insurance requirements
  - No update at this time
- District Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity Plan -
  - Update - Phishing campaign for all staff will begin on 9/1/22.
- Change from Windstream telephone services to Lightpath - Update: Project continues to move forward. Lightpath to begin fiber site surveys for Demarc and Central Admin this week.
- Beginning discussion with John Maso, head of maintenance, on getting electrical survey for district Data Center in preparation for possible generator backup system - Update: No update at this time
- Purchased new Chromebooks for Middle School students for the 22-23 school year. Distribution and collection will be done on the return to school after Start Strong state testing. - Update: waiting on delivery to the 2 middle schools.
- Began planning a summer physical security project on 7/8/22. This entails additional cameras, configuration, and installation of NVRs, and security servers, in the schools. Update: wiring completed in the stairwell at KMS. Will be adding an additional NVR (Security Server) to room 127 in KMS.
- Lincoln Tech interns - Update: Interns have been working with the IT team for the past 6 weeks. Will complete their hours the week of 9/12/22.
- Updating the Chromebook agreement for students before the beginning of the school year has been uploaded to Genesis for parents to approve.
- Updating the staff technology checkout agreement for teachers and administrators as soon as possible. Investigating district self-insurance process. Update: This has been reviewed by the central admin administration. Will be distributed via Genesis (SchoolFi) to all teaching staff.
- District new website

#### New Business

- Investigating the integration of door access systems with the Sielox CLASS E911 System.

#### Approval of Bills:

Bills will be approved next week.

#### Unfinished Business:

Mrs. Regis-Darby stated that AP classes had a reading assignment over the summer to read King Lear and now since they have returned to school, they are re-reading it during the school year. What is the rationale? Dr. Perez stated she would look into it and follow-up with the Board. Mrs. Brens-Watson stated only AP had mandatory assignments but not the rest of the students.

Dr. Francis asked what are we doing for Franklin? Mr. Buggy stated to wait until executive session.

#### New Business:

Mrs. Williams stated September is ovarian cancer awareness month and she volunteers at the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition. There is a local group called Graceful Hope. It was founded by a man who lost his wife in 2008 and 2009, his daughter at age 16 was diagnosed with ovarian cancer and died at the age of 20. It is not an older women's disease. She asked that next Tuesday everybody wear "teal" as support.

Mrs. Scott-Hayden stated Governor Murphy signed two bills with respect to food for the students and that it has been extended. Dr. Taylor stated we have a full-time person working on that.

Mrs. Regis-Darby asked if the district received the NJSLA exam results and when will the results be shared with parents. Dr. Perez stated Randi and Jeremy have been reviewing the data and I will look into when it will be shared with the parents.

Ms. Santana stated she was at Kawameeh Middle School and it was a great first day of school and it was fun.

Mrs. Minneci stated she was at Hannah Caldwell and it was great to see everyone.

Mrs. Williams stated she was at Livingston and it was very nice to see the kids hugging their friends and teachers; it was a great experience.

Mrs. Minneci stated she attended the ribbon cutting at Hannah Caldwell for the sensory garden. It is beautiful. We are trying to get more businesses to donate money to add a few more things.

Dr. Perez stated we have a proposal to change the school calendar to change five full days to five half days for PD. It was shared with the principals and the half days would all be on Monday.

Mrs. Regis-Darby asked what kind of PD and what is the impact? Dr. Perez stated it is for building based PD; we can't do districtwide PD because of dismissal times. The PD would be what the principal determined would be the needs for their building – NJTSS, equity work, CARS, and any additional PD requested by teachers. Dates are September 2<sup>nd</sup>, October 10<sup>th</sup> and February.

Mrs. Regis-Darby stated you want us to approve PD without a plan. Dr. Taylor stated we have it in the strategic plan. We don't usually share all the details with the Board, but we can.

#### Comments from the Public:

Jill Hall stated September is also suicide awareness month. Our student ID's at the high school are now required to have the New Jersey Suicide Hotline number on the back. The emergency number for suicide prevention has been rolled out. I will have information next week about a program that we are doing at the high school called "Between Bells". I will have some information that we will be sharing with the students and parents with regards to mental health awareness, suicide prevention and resources.

Kathleen Brunsmeyers read the following statement:

"I have spoken about this issue here in the past, I am now here once again pleading with you, to act immediately. I am referring to the lack of a policy when it comes to children being sent home or kept home from school when they are sick.

Let me begin with a situation that happened in my classroom this past Friday. I had a student upon arrival in the morning, within minutes of entering the classroom, vomit on the floor/rug/chair in my classroom. As some of you may be aware of, I am a PreK teacher at Livingston. This particular student was upset and crying when he vomited because he was sad that he missed his mother. Being only the fourth day of school in PreK I had a few others also crying, it was already slightly challenging dealing with everyone getting used to the separation from their parents, and this situation made it a tougher beginning for everyone in the room.

The school nurse was called and she came down to my room and took the student with her to the nurses office. Because of us being in the PreK, the Livingston school nurse, Nurse Kolas called the new PreK nurse, Nurse Nardo, and it was decided that this child had gotten themselves sick, and after the child spent some time in the nurse's office, the child was returned to our class, (My class was outside on the playground when he was returned to us.). As the class was walking back into the building, the student again began crying and saying that he didn't feel well, along with making comments that he missed his mother. As we were walking back into the building, several times he had to stop, because he was gagging and said that he felt like he was going to throw up again. On the way back to our classroom, we stopped at the nurses office and I inquired about why he was not being sent home. I was informed that because he was upset, and

did not have a fever, that they believed that he had made himself sick. I explained that he had cried a lot the day before and that he had not vomited or complained about not feeling well, but I was told that between the two nurses, that the decision was made for him to return to the class. We returned to our classroom and within a few minutes, the student again vomited, this time also vomiting on another student in the classroom.

I called Nurse Kolas and she again came back and took him with her back to her office. She did tell me that because they believed that he was making himself sick, and if they sent him home, he would be getting what he wanted, so he would not be sent home. She kept him in her office for a while and he was again returned to my classroom. Upon returning, the students were resting, (rest time was almost over), so he laid down and fell asleep and remained sleeping until I needed to wake him up as the day was coming to an end.

That same day in another prek class in another building, several children had thrown up and they too were not sent home. Yesterday in my building an older grade student threw up while in the hall, and they too were not sent home. The problem that the district has, is that there is NOT a policy that clearly spells out when a child gets sick and needs to be sent home, or the time frame that the child needs to remain home for. As I was told last year, we have a guideline, but NOT a policy and that it is at the discretion of the nurse of each building. So at one school, they follow the 24 hour fever/vomit free guideline, but at another school, they do not.

When my own children attended elementary school in Union, at a different school than where I currently work, if my child ever was found to have a fever or vomited in school, not only were they sent home, but they were also not allowed to return the next day because of the 24-hour guideline, which I always believed was a "rule". As a teacher in the district, I have found out that this is not the case. I understand that there are some children who have underlying conditions where they should not be sent home. But when it is only the fourth day of school and this happens to a four-year-old, to leave a student who has vomited TWICE in the classroom is completely wrong. It is unfair to the teacher and to the fellow students, especially after one of them was vomited on.

In the NJ State Statute section 18A: 40-7; Exclusion of pupils who are ill; It states that "If there is evidence of departure from normal health of any pupil, then that pupil should be excluded from the classroom". Even if that child was not truly "sick", after vomiting no one feels good, and now a four-year-old was expected to come back into a classroom, while complaining they didn't feel well and continue their day. This again is not fair to ANY child in that room as it changes the learning environment and is in NO way the best practice for learning.

To make things even worse, about 28 hours after this situation, I too began to feel ill, and also proceeded to vomit. I am not a doctor and have no medical

training, but I believe that it is just too coincidental that I haven't been sick to my stomach in a very long time, and yet after taking care of the student who was sick, I too got sick. I know that when we sign up to be teachers, especially PreK teachers, we realize that MANY germs will come our way on a daily basis. But to have the health and welfare of myself and my other students ignored when no one really knew if that child had something more than a case of the sadness blues, is really unfair and unacceptable.

Again, I am pleading with the Board of Education to review the district policy 8441, Care of Injured and ill persons, and make the actual District Guidelines that are already in place in our district the normal that each school follows. I did email all admins that I think have to do with this situation, but not knowing the ins and outs of who makes the final decision on this, I come to you. I love each and every one of my students, and it is bad when one gets sick, but when something that spreads can be prevented and it is not, it gets me very upset and it is completely unfair to the other students. In a post pandemic world, where the district talks about the social emotional well-being of all students and staff, this has COMPLETELY ignored caring for anyone. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.”

Ms. McKenzie asked what is a pre-k nurse? Dr. Taylor stated it is a nurse that floats to other schools when necessary, just to address our 3-4 year olds.

Ann Margaret Shannon stated O-2 – the term first come first serve and if we are going after money, things are done a little late. I hope we are going to be the first in line to get the extra money. I want to thank everyone for revisiting the jeans policy and to be consistent across the board. This Friday is the festival and visit the UTEA table and see what we are giving away.

#### MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Moved by Mrs. Minneci, seconded by Mrs. Brens-Watson, that the Board go into Executive Session at 8:47 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: litigation 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: Mrs. Brens-Watson, Dr. Francis, Ms. McKenzie, Mrs. Minneci, Mr. O’Shea,  
Mrs. Regis-Darby, Ms. Santana, Mrs. Scott-Hayden, Mrs. Williams

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

The Board returned to public session at 9:14 p.m.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the Board in public session it was moved by Ms. McKenzie, seconded by Mrs. Brens-Watson, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

All present voting YES

MOTION CARRIED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

*Yolanda Koon*

YOLANDA KOON  
BOARD SECRETARY

