

TOWNSHIP OF UNION BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – JULY 18, 2017

NOTICE OF MEETING:

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Township of Union was held on Tuesday, July 18, 2017 at 7:00 p. at the Administration Building, 2369 Morris Avenue, Union, New Jersey 07083.

Mr. McDowell called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

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, Mrs. Kim Conti, Mr. Barry Loessel

ALSO PRESENT:

Mr. Paul Griggs, Esq.

Mr. McDowell led the Board and audience members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Dr. Francis read the Mission Statement of the District.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Moved by Mr. Arminio, seconded by Mr. Nufrio, that the following minutes be approved:

Mrs. Minneci left the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

May 9, 2017 – worksession and executive session

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

May 16, 2017 – regular meeting and executive session

AYE: Mr. Arminio, Dr. Francis, Mr. Nufrio, Mrs. Regis-Darby, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Zuena,  
Mr. McDowell

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Mr. Monge

MOTION CARRIED

Mrs. Minneci returned to meeting at 7:10 p.m.

COMMUNICATIONS:

REQUEST FROM UNION TOWNSHIP CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Request from Union Township Chamber of Commerce requesting the use of the Union High School facility site for the Chamber's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Mayor's Day 5K Run, scheduled for September 24, 2017.

REQUEST FROM UNION CRIMSON TIDE GIRLS SOCCER TEAM

Request from Union Crimson Tide Girls Soccer Team to use Union High School parking lot (by Conlon Field) to park while playing in National Tournament in Westfield, Indiana. Request from Nancy Segale to close the "Jack Segale Memorial Track Fund" account and refund the current balance.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION – OUDEH

Letter of resignation from Raeda Oudeh, cafeteria aide-Livingston Elementary School, effective June 15, 2017.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION – SANTANGELO

Letter of resignation from Nicholas Santangelo, Spanish teacher-Washington Elementary School, effective September 1, 2017.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION - BRANTLEY

Letter of resignation from Elias Brantley, math teacher-Union High School, effective June 30, 2017.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION – BENCIVENGA

Letter of resignation from James Bencivenga, math teacher-Union High School, effective June 29, 2017.

REQUEST FOR PAID MATERNITY/UNPAID FMLA/NJFLA – FORD

Request for paid maternity leave followed by unpaid FMLA/NJFLA (concurrently) and non-FMLA leave from Erian Ford, 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher-Hannah Caldwell Elementary School from October 13, 2017 and with a return date of April 13, 2018.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION – SALVATORE

Letter of resignation, for purpose of retirement, from Raymond Salvatore, principal-Burnet Middle School, effective September 1, 2017.

REQUEST FOR PAID LEAVE OF ABSENCE – MARSHALL

Request for paid leave of absence from Gary Marshall, custodian-Burnet Middle School, from June 5, 2017 to August 8, 2017, return date subject to change.

REQUEST FOR INTERMITTENT FMLA – ROBIN SICKLES

Request for intermittent FMLA from Robin Sickles, art teacher-Washington and Livingston Elementary Schools, from September 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Mr. Tatum stated the attendance for the month of June – student attendance – 91% and staff attendance – 94%.

The vandalism and violence report for the second period for the 16-17 school is appended to the minutes under E-10.

- Violence – 30 incidences
- Vandalism – 6
- Weapons – 3
- Substance abuse – 19
- Incidents that cost the District – 0
- Police notified – 1
- Police notified with a complaint filed – 6
- In-school suspension – 1
- Out-of-School suspension – 79
- Expulsion/removal – 0
- Student offenders – 82
- Student victims – 13
- School personnel victims – 4
- Student victims of violent crime offenders – 0
- Assignments of educational program/instruction – 56
- Altercations within the District – 0
- Other home instructions – 54
- Out-of-district programs – 0

If we look at this number and compare it to the first report, we are actually at a total for the year: 57 - violence; 10 – vandalism; 4 – weapons charges; 28 – substance abuse; 5 – police notified; 8 - with a report; 1 – in-school suspension; 134 – out-of-school suspension; 131 – student offenders; 21 – student victims; 6 personnel victims; 89 – assignments; 0 – altercations; 84 – home instruction; 0 - out-of-district

HIB – a total of 11 incidences for this period and a total of 4 for the first period – total 15. At the next meeting I will give you a full breakdown of those incidences and how they turned out as far as counseling and discipline.

Monthly activities - I am happy to announce that all the activities commenced properly and they were all attended safely. Our students had a good time with picnics and celebrations – moving up ceremonies at the elementary schools. Congratulations to our Class of 2017 for graduating on June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Also congratulations to our 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes that are now moving in to be our freshman classes for both Burnet and Kawameeh. In addition, all of our 4<sup>th</sup> graders are now moving to Jefferson School and we congratulate them.

All the things that are going on this summer and Mrs. Moses will present that. Mrs. Moses stated I want to give you some information on the summer programs in the District and the summer programs are going very well.

Mr. Benaquista and myself get out a lot to look at the programs and speak to the students who are the most important part of the program and they report that they are having fun and learning at the same time and that is what we want the programs to do for our students.

We started the summer programs with the Summer Learning Camps and the first program started July 3<sup>rd</sup> to July 5<sup>th</sup> and that was a summer tech program for students K-2. In that program they have their morning meetings, computer time with language arts. They have project based learning which they do hands-on learning. Their project was doing a barbeque menu for the holidays and what it entails, buying items and adding it up and writing invitations. They have snacks and play time daily which is very important. Computer time for math and they have read out loud and the teacher reads and they have discussions using communications for 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Also July 3<sup>rd</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup> is the ESY program which services approximately 180 students pre-k through 12 and it runs 20 days out of the month. The educational experience can include academics, social skills through play and guided activities and related services. Within that there are project based instruction, community garden, NAP program which includes career exploration, job search, strategies and application and interviewing process for pre-employment and orientation.

Then we have the bridge program which includes i-Ready and preparing kids to moving over to the next coming grade and that is grade 2 to grade 9. Kawameeh has three of the programs. Hannah Caldwell has one, Connecticut Farms has one and Washington has one.

The bridge program includes blended instruction with math and language arts and in that program they use the APEX learning which prepares for more focus and personalized learning. These children are not being marked for what they do but they are being exposed to what lies ahead.

Throughout the camps the students are engaged in collaborative project based activities which is very big because kids learn through activity especially during the hot months. We want them to understand that learning is fun.

Group project based – kids are working on developing theme parks; planning a vacation with a \$7,000 budget; video game design competition. They are being exposed to Ted Talk and use them to learn debate and discussion techniques.

We have the Title I programs in Jefferson and Franklin schools. Both programs they have breakfast and lunch. I want to back track to the bridge program – kids bring their lunch as a throwback to the good old days where you bring lunch.

Jefferson has incorporated reading, math, STEM and art and they have physical education. We have the recess time for the kids to go out and play and they design their own play. In Franklin their program is based on Science focused and math centered. Kids have hand on PBL and they had their first in-school field trip which is what is out there and it is a portable planetarium that came to the school and the kids have the experience of being part of the solar system.

Burnet Title I program is about the language arts and math and also incorporating art and science. Within their program they are working on a literacy stairwell program. They are working on that project along with creating other designs with hands on science activities during the day.

The last is the high school recovery program. It is amazing, the kids want to know what they need to do to make sure that they pass their courses. They are communicating that to me and Mr. Tatum via email. We have some good collaboration with them. What they are doing is there are two sessions – 7:30 to 10:30; session two starts at 10:45 to 1:45. It is being held at Kawameeh because there is a facelift going on in the high school.

They too are engaged in the APEX platform of learning. Teachers are engaged in this skill based small group and whole group instruction. They also have to do small group kinesthetic math experiments, computer based labs, interactive lessons, smartboard, journal essays and communications.

The programs are looking quite different but they have relevance and that is what is important.

Mr. Tatum stated I would like to take this opportunity to commend Mrs. Moses and Mr. Benaquista and those who were involved in the planning of those activities throughout the course of the year. I think what is important that people understand that it doesn't stop when the summer begins. It is a continuation of what we have going on and what we budget for throughout the course of the school year. I think many times people think that we are not making the best effort here to give the best to children – we really are and we are working really hard to ensure that those activities are meaningful and when they make a transition and I want to talk about the bridge program. You hear me talk about conceptual – I remember when we were planning this bridge program and I was having a conversation with Mrs. Moses about how when children go to different experiences –moving from elementary to 5<sup>th</sup> grade and how sometimes it is a traumatic experience. The bridge program is really designed to get students comfortable with moving into a new building and different experience and giving them a taste of what it is

like to be in that environment. I think that is so important for our students to get prepared for the next level they enter into. I commend Mrs. Moses because as I was talking she was writing and the next thing I know she was designing a program. We put money together in terms of budgeting so I commend her and Mr. Benaquista for all their hard work there.

In addition to that re-registration update and I was told this evening that we have approximately 1500 students left to complete re-registration. I received a few phone calls tonight from parents that were asking for information about that. Once again for a little bit of the remainder of the summer, re-registration – Mrs. Moses will give you an update.

Mrs. Regis-Darby stated on the programs, I'm really happy to see the K-2 programs that we are addressing ESL because that is a really big component now for our K-2 students. I like that direction that we are addressing the social/emotion aspect. Mr. Tatum stated we have been talking about that for a couple of years and I always point to Mrs. Hall who is here tonight and we have been talking about doing that throughout the District.

Mrs. Moses stated registration we have approximately 1500 left. What we are going to do this year is we are going to put the word out to parents and students that 9<sup>th</sup> graders will be picking up their Chrome Books in August and you have to be registered to pick up your Chrome Books. We know we have approximately 500-600 students. In addition to that we know all our practices start so that too will go out in a robo call saying to parents it is that time for practice and they need to be registered. I would suspect that it will be very low by the time we move into September.

Mr. Monge asked are we finding English as a second language as a correlation for folks not coming in or coming late. Mrs. Moses stated that all summer we have parents that do come into the Board offices and Miss Lam will spend time in explaining and supporting parents. One of the things I did say to Mr. Tatum is maybe we should say it in Spanish on our robo call. Mrs. Zuena stated even on the website. I will say it was the easiest process ever. As long as your points of reference were on point and up-to-date, you were in and out in four minutes; as long as you have all the documents you need it is very simple.

Mr. Nufrio stated I would like to suggest – each school has a bulletin display outside – maybe we can put the re-registration deadline on it. It is neighborhood. By 711, maybe the Town can put something on that electronic board. Maybe some people didn't get the call. Mrs. Zuena stated a letter did go to everyone's home. Every reminder is good especially the robo calls.

Mr. Tatum stated Mr. Loessel will give us a quick construction update of what is going on in the buildings this summer.

Mr. Loessel stated the high school we have a huge project going on. We are putting ceiling tiles throughout the building – classrooms, hallways. We are retrofitting with LED lights and should save us on the electric bill so we can put that money back into education for the kids. We are also putting new cameras up there. A lot of the lighting is up already, second floor they

tore out and ready to put the ceiling tiles up. Next week they will be working two shifts and we should be good by September 6<sup>th</sup>.

We also are painting the auditorium at Livingston School. Burnet Middle School we sanded both floors and realigned and finished them. We did eight bathrooms districtwide. We gutted them – all new toilets, urinals – all ADA compliant. Starting the tiling right now.

We abated 12 floors of asbestos floors in the District and they are tiling 15 floors. We also went out for the roof at Franklin School and that came in at \$307,000 and we had 10 bids on that. We also finished an intercom system at Burnet and we are just waiting for the inspections on that. The boilers at the high school are also complete and we are waiting for the inspections on that.

Mr. Tatum stated I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate one of our principals, Ray Salvatore, who will be retiring from the Union Township Board of Education on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Salvatore has been the middle school principal for a number of years and he has been with the District since 1987 and we at the central office and I'm sure I speak for the Board and wish him all the best in his retirement and we look forward to continuing a relationship as we always do with our retirees and wish him all the best. There is a certificate that we give everyone but unfortunately he is not here tonight and we will make sure he gets that.

#### EDUCATION/STUDENT DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS:

Moved by Mrs. Regis-Darby, seconded by Mrs. Zuena, that the following resolutions be adopted:

##### E-1. AFFIRM SUPERINTENDENT'S RESOLUTION OF HIB

Affirm the Superintendent's resolution of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) conclusions for the period June 1, 2017 to June 30, 2017, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

##### E-2. APPROVE STUDENTS' ENROLLMENT – AM AND PM VO-TECH

Approve Students' enrollment for school year 2017-2018 AM and PM vo-tech, in accordance with the information appended to the non-public minutes.

##### E-3. APPROVE AGREEMENT/RESOLUTION WITH UCESC

Approve the Nonpublic Public Law 1977 Chapter 192-193 Agreement and resolution with the Union County Educational Services Commission for the 2017-2018 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

##### E-4. APPROVE SCHOOL NURSING SERVICES AGREEMENT/RESOLUTION WITH UCESC

Approve the Chapter 226 Nonpublic School Nursing Services Agreement and resolution with the Union County Educational Services Commission for the 2017-2018 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

E-5. APPROVE NJ NONPUBLIC SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE PROGRAM AGREEMENT/RESOLUTION WITH UCESC

Approve the New Jersey Nonpublic School Technology Initiative Program Agreement and resolution with the Union County Educational Services Commission for the 2017-2018 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

E-6. APPROVE NJ NONPUBLIC SCHOOL TEXTBOOKS AGREEMENT/RESOLUTION WITH UCESC

Approve the New Jersey Nonpublic School Textbooks Agreement and resolution with the Union County Educational Services Commission for the 2017-2018 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

E-7. APPROVE AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES WITH UCESC

Approve the Agreement for Professional Services with the Union County Educational Services Commission for the 2017-2018 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

E-8. APPROVE CONTRACT WITH UCESC

Approve contract with the Union County Educational Services Commission to administer the District's Nonpublic School Individuals with Disabilities Education Act-B Initiative (IDEA-B) funds Basic, pursuant to the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Grant Application on behalf of the Board, effective July 1, 2017 until June 30, 2018. The Board agrees to pay the Commission for services provided in accordance with rates specified in Schedule A. Billing shall commence in October and shall continue until the funds are depleted. It is understood that the Commission will provide services for all of the eligible Nonpublic schools identified by the District's grant application, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

E-9. APPROVE REIMBURSEMENT TO PARENT

Approve reimbursement to parent for transporting their special education student to and from DCF Regional School, Essex Campus, 397-97 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Newark, NJ at a rate of \$35.76 per day for the 2017-2018 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the non-public minutes.

E-10. ACCEPT VANDALISM AND VIOLENCE REPORT

Accept the Vandalism and Violence Report for the second period of the 2016-2017 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes. (The Superintendent will present results of this report during the Superintendent's Report).

E-11. APPROVE PLANNING FOR ADULT LIFE/THE ARC OF NJ – TRANSITIONAL EDUCATIONAL CLASSES

Approve Planning for Adult Life/The ARC of New Jersey to provide transitional educational classes for students and their families for the 2017-2018 school year, at no cost to the District, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.



DISCUSSION:

None

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

FISCAL AND PLANNING COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS:

Mr. Monge stated I would like to highlight a couple of items that I brought up in Finance and some things we talked about. To let folks know F-13 – approval of Summit Psychological services – that is a budgeted item. F-16 – approval of the application for the second payment for the electrical system – that is also a budgeted item.

Moved by Mr. Monge, seconded by Mr. Nufrio, that the following resolutions be adopted:

F-1. ACCEPT PRELIMINARY TREASURER’S REPORT

That the preliminary Treasurer’s Report dated June 30, 2017 be accepted.

F-2. ACCEPT PRELIMINARY SECRETARY’S REPORT

That the preliminary Secretary’s Report dated June 30, 2017 be accepted.

F-3. CERTIFY PRELIMINARY TREASURER’S AND SECRETARY’S REPORT

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(a), I certify that as of June 30, 2017 no budgetary line item account has obligations and payments (contractual orders) which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the district Board of education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8 and 18:22-8.1.

/s/ Gregory E. Brennan  
Gregory E. Brennan, Board Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_ Dated

Pursuant to N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.2(h), we certify that as of June 30, 2017 after review of the secretary’s monthly financial report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials that to the best of our knowledge no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.2(d)3 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district’s financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year. This certification is solely based on the information provided by the School Business Administrator and Board Secretary and is assumed by the Board to be correct.

F-4. APPROVE APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS

Approve appropriation transfers in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-5. APPROVE LIST OF CONTRACTS AND/OR PURCHASE ORDERS

Approve the attached list of contracts and/or purchase orders pursuant to the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5 (bid exceptions to requirement for advertising) and 18A:18A-10(a)

(purchase through State agency; procedure), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-6. APPROVE DISTRICTWIDE TRAVEL AND RELATED EXPENSES**

Approve district wide travel and related expenses pursuant to the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:11-12, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7 and Board Policy File Code 6471 and in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-7. PRE-APPROVE DISTRICTWIDE STUDENT FIELD TRIP DESTINATIONS**

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.

**F-8. APPROVE STATE CONTRACT VENDORS**

Approve the list of the 2017-2018 State Contract Vendors pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-10(a) (purchase through State agency; procedure) to facilitate schools' purchasing, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-9. APPROVE LIST OF CONTRACTS AND/OR PURCHASES**

Approve the below list and attached 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 | #3201/Athletics    | Cabana Banners – estimate for alumni banners for new class of inductees | \$8,000.00 (approx.)  |
| Union High School | #3202/Athletics    | Galloping Hill Caterers – estimate for Alumni Dinner – 2017 class year  | \$30,000.00 (approx.) |
| Union High School | #3202/Athletics    | Kass Glass – estimate for Alumni plaques – 2017 class year              | \$3,000.00 (approx.)  |
| Union High School | #3202-Athletics    | Patel Printing – estimate for Alumni programs – 2017 class year         | \$3,000.00 (approx.)  |

**F-10. APPROVE AMENDED 2016-2017 OUT-OF-DISTRICT STUDENT PLACEMENT LIST**

Approval be given to amend the 2016-2017 out-of-district student placement list, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-11. APPROVE AMENDED 2017-2018 OUT-OF-DISTRICT STUDENT PLACEMENT LIST**

Approval be given to amend the 2017-2018 out-of-district student placement list, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-12. APPROVE SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**

Approve Senior Scholarship Awards, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-13. APPROVE SUMMIT PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES**

Approve Summit Psychological Services for neuropsychological evaluations at the rate of \$225/hr. and psychoeducational evaluations at the rate of \$225, not to exceed \$6,000.00 for the 2017-2018 school year (Acct #11-000-219-320-01-19), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-14. APPROVE AMENDMENT TO DISTRICT APPLICATION FOR NJ CHILD ASSAULT PREVENTION GRANT APPLICATION**

Approve amendment to District application for the New Jersey Child Assault Prevention 2017-2018 Grant Application – Elementary, Teen and Special Needs – CAP (originally approved at May 16, 2017 Board meeting) to include additional grade levels in the District, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-15. APPROVE REQUEST OF NANCY SEGALE**

Approve request of Nancy Segale to (a) close the “Jack Segale Memorial Track Fund” account at Investors Bank and (b) refund the current balance of \$140.71, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-16. APPROVE APPLICATION & CERTIFICATE FOR PAYMENT #2 – COSKEY ELECTRIC SYSTEMS**

Approve Application & Certificate for Payment #2 to Coskey Electric Systems, in the amount of \$36,059.00, with respect to the Burnet Middle School Intercom System Replacement Project, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-17. *For informational purposes only – vote not required.* List of legal services for the 2016-2017 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-18. APPROVE ACCEPTANCE OF FY18 ESEA-NCLB ALLOCATIONS FROM NJDOE**

Approve the acceptance of the FY18 ESEA-NCLB allocations from the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) as follows: (a) Title I-A: \$958,913, (b) Title IIA: \$205,052, Title III: \$52,012, Title III-Immigrant: \$14,672, Title IV (new): \$13,066 for a total of \$1,243,715.

**F-19. APPROVE TENTATIVE DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF FY18 ESEA-NCLB GRANT**

Approve the tentative date of August 30, 2017 as the submission date of the FY18 ESEA-NCLB grant to the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE).

**DISCUSSION:**

Mr. Monge stated we had conversation on F-4 – there was a transfer for a sizeable amount under special services for contract related services for \$250,000 was a pretty big sum of money. We just have a question of what did that consist of because normally we don't have transfers in that size? Mr. Brennan stated the special education budget was under budgeted and

we are making the adjustments ahead of time for the upcoming school year and it was a transfer from one account in special services to another account where it is more needed.

Mrs. Regis-Darby asked was it under because of new admits to the program or why was it under? What happened? Mr. Brennan stated it was under budgeted because we were basing the last year's budget which was under budgeted too so we are basing this 17-18 year budget on 16-17 budget – this was my first year here and it was definitely under budgeted last year therefore it is a domino effect and it occurred this year also. We are trying to work with Mrs. Conti, Superintendent, myself and Mr. Vieira and we will be meeting on a regular basis to rectify this situation and get the dollar amounts where they are supposed to be appropriated.

Mr. Monge stated so you are re-appropriating within the same budget. Mr. Brennan stated for that particular transfer yes. Mr. Monge stated just to clarify these are line items within the special service department budget. Mr. Brennan stated this particular one yes but in other areas we might have to look in other account lines and have to move some money into that.

Mr. Monge stated why now versus during the budget process. Mr. Brennan stated it was under budgeted last year and this year's budget was based on an under budgeted dollar amount of last year. We are trying to rectify that. We had a meeting with the County about it – Mr. Tatum, Mrs. Conti was involved and Mr. Vieira.

Mr. Tatum stated one point about special education students. Mr. Monge you will recall at one of the Finance Committee meetings that we had during the day, there was a dollar amount that I quoted to the committee that we had allocated for special services and an increase of specific dollar amount and then I found out that amount had been reconfigured to another dollar amount. Unfortunately there was a shortfall even shorter than the amount that we originally allocated. The dollar amount I quoted to you was the actual amount that we put on that line and when I got to the table I was a little surprised that it had been transferred out and obviously the County picked up the same thing and because of that there was an under budgeting as Mr. Brennan mentioned the prior year. When you think you are increasing the line to a specific amount that has been under budgeted the prior year, with all the expenses you are really trying to play catch-up to the amount of money that you need to fund for this year. You are at dollar amount plus the amount that was removed from the original appropriations. I also spoke with Mr. Griggs about this, some kind of internal controls have to be put in place in terms of that move. The whole purpose of a zero-based budget was to stop that process; I'm going to put that out there exactly where it is. I'm not going to dance around it that is what exactly is going on and what has to be done. Mr. Monge stated I'm glad you guys are getting to the bottom of this.

Mr. McDowell stated Miss are you recording this. Lady in the audience stated yes, it is an open meeting and I have the right as a citizen of New Jersey to record the meetings. Mr. McDowell stated that our policy says that we have to have 24-hour notice before things can be taped. Lady in the audience stated I spoke to my legal counsel and he instructed me that as a citizen of the State of New Jersey I'm allowed. Mr. Griggs stated it is fine.

Mr. Monge stated as part of our previous conversation from last month's meeting, we are going to sit down and work out this presentation that we talked about. I think it is going to be very helpful to everybody to be able to track where dollars are going and transfers.

Mrs. Regis-Darby stated F-15 – are they going to discontinue the scholarship? Mr. Brennan stated there is only \$140 left in it so it will be cleaned out.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. McDowell stated there is nothing under Grievance/Negotiations Committee to talk about tonight. Negotiations are taking place with the teacher's union.

#### OPERATIONS COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS:

Moved by Mrs. Zuena, seconded by Mr. Nufrio, that the following resolutions be adopted:

##### O-1. APPROVE SECURITY DRILL AND BUS EVACUATION REPORTS

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:41-1 and P.L. 2009, Chapter 178, approve the following security drill and bus evacuation reports for the 2016-2017 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

##### O-2. APPROVE DISPOSAL OF TEXTBOOKS

Approve disposal of textbooks, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes. All textbooks under 10 years old will be listed on the textbook sharing website.

##### O-3. APPROVE RENTAL FEE SCHEDULE FOR 2017-2018

Approve Rental Fee Schedule for charges for the use of school facilities for the 2017-2018 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

##### O-4. REPORT RECEIPT OF BIDS

Report receipt of one (1) bid for each of the following: (a) video surveillance system maintenance for the 2017-2018 school year, (b) music instrument purchase for the 2017-2018 school year, (c) music instrument repairs for the 2017-2018 school year, and (d) disposal and recycling services for a three-year period, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

##### O-5. REJECT BID

Reject bid received for Video Surveillance System Maintenance for the 2017-2018 school year.

O-6. APPROVE AWARD OF BIDS

Approve award of bid for the 2017-2018 school year to K&S Music for (a) purchase of musical instruments – not to exceed \$12,222 and (b) repair of musical instruments – not to exceed \$12,715.

O-7. RESERVED

O-8. APPROVE REQUEST FROM TOWNSHIP OF UNION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Approve request from the Union Township Chamber of Commerce for the use of Union High School facility site for the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Mayor's Day 5K Run, scheduled for September 24, 2017.

O-9. APPROVE REQUEST FROM UNION CRIMONS TIDE GIRLS SOCCER TEAM

Approve request from Union Crimson Tide Girls Soccer Team to use Union High School parking lot (by Conlon Field) from 4 a.m. on Thursday, July 20, 2017 to approximately 1 a.m. on Monday, July 24, 2017 to park cars while playing in National Tournament in Westfield, Indiana. The District will not be held responsible for parked vehicles.

O-10. APPROVE SALE OF SCHOOL VEHICLES BY HCESC

Approve the sale of the following school vehicles by Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission: (a) Vehicle #7 2002 GMC/MidBus 16 passenger (VIN 1GDHG31F821199567), (b) Vehicle #20 2002 GM/Collins 16-passenger (VIN 1GBHG31F921207071), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

O-11. AWARD CONTRACT

Award of contract for installation of Security Camera Replacement at Union High School to Distinctive Voice & Data of Little Falls, New Jersey (\$39,642.00), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

O-12. APPROVE CHANGE ORDER #1

Approve Change Order #1 – Ceiling, Lighting and Fire Alarm Replacement at Union High School from GPC Inc., to provide ceiling tile at classrooms with existing spline ceiling, in the amount of \$399,935.00, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

O-13. APPROVE CHANGE ORDER #2

Approve Change Order #2 – Ceiling, Lighting and Fire Alarm Replacement at Union High School from GPC Inc., to add 4'-0" T and one (1) 2x4 ceiling tile, in the amount of \$6,244.00, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

O-14. REPORT RECEIPT OF BIDS

Report receipt of ten (10) bids for partial roof replacement – Franklin Elementary School, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

O-15. APPROVE AWARD OF CONTRACT

Approve award of contract to VMG Group for partial roof replacement – Franklin Elementary School (\$307,000), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

## DISCUSSION:

Mrs. Zuena stated there was some discussion in our committee meeting about O-7 about tabling it and putting it back out to bid since there was only one bid that came in and the date the contract is up is September 1<sup>st</sup>. We just wanted to see if there was any discussion on that here.

Mr. Nufrio stated my only concern is that we have continued services. Mrs. Zuena stated our contract is good until September 1<sup>st</sup>. We have to vote on it for next month. Mr. Nufrio stated do we have to be mindful Mr. Griggs in terms of notifying the bidder. Mr. Griggs stated in terms of rejecting the bid? Or having a contract in place? Mr. Nufrio asked are we rejecting the bid or are we simply saying we want more? If you do a rejection then you are saying you are not accepting the bid.

Mr. Griggs stated you want to table that. Mr. Nufrio stated the sole bidder needs to be notified. Mr. Griggs stated my recommendation would be because you have a month and you are going to have a Board meeting before the end of this contract. I would suggest that the person who made the motion, agree to a friendly amendment to delete this particular motion and then the Business Office go back out to bid and the Business Office advise the one bidder that the Board elected to go out for bid and they are welcome to put a bid in. You only need 10 days so get a notice in the paper and go back out and see what happens. My experience has been you don't get a lot of bids of Waste Management, not Waste Management company, but in terms of garbage removal in my experience, but I think you go back out and see what you get.

Mr. Monge stated the other added piece was Mr. Brennan was on vacation during that time and there was a process that began and ended with him not having an opportunity to be part of that process. We wanted to make sure that he had the opportunity to be part of that process in addition to getting additional bids.

Mr. Arminio asked is there a possibility that Waste Management would not put in another bid even if it was the same amount and no one else would bid? Mr. Griggs stated if that happens, in the interim you can do it by finding a carrier to do it month-by-month and then you go back out and negotiate. I think you are covered.

Mr. Nufrio stated I think the wording of the notification will be the deciding factor how it is worded to the bidder so as not to spook the bidder. Mr. Monge asked do we know the process for that particular service? How does this differ? Mr. Griggs stated it is the same process. Whoever put the bid is going to understand that they wanted to go out to see if there are more bids; which is not an unusual process to follow; to ensure that you are getting the most responsible bid – the cheapest bid. I think it is good practice and you have time.

Mr. McDowell stated we need to remove O-7. Mr. Griggs stated whoever made the motion and who ever second it agree to. Mrs. Zuena stated I made the motion. Mr. Nufrio stated I seconded it. Mr. Griggs stated eliminate that from the action you are going to take and take action on all your items except that item.

Mr. Nufrio stated Mr. Griggs can you assist Mr. Brennan in the proper wording and not that you couldn't write it I'm certain you can just to frame it that it doesn't signal we don't want you. Mr. Griggs stated sure.

Mr. Monge stated it is a three-year term and I haven't seen many three-year terms. Mr. Griggs stated it is permissible.

Dr. Francis stated O-15 – VMG Group is that one of the ten that we are reporting receipt off? Mr. Griggs stated yes. Dr. Francis stated so we have decided on VMG. Mr. Brennan stated yes.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS:**

Moved by Mr. Arminio, seconded by Mrs. Zuena, that the following resolutions be adopted:

**P-1. APPROVE PERSONNEL ACTIONS**

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

**P-2. ACCEPT LETTERS OF RESIGNATION/RETIREMENT**

Accept letters of resignation/retirement from the following staff:

**Resignations**

| <u>Name</u>          | <u>Position</u>        | <u>Location</u>  | <u>Eff. Date</u> | <u>Reason</u> | <u>Notes/ Corrections</u> |
|----------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| Brantley, Elias      | Teacher of Mathematics | UHS              | 6/30/17          | Resignation   |                           |
| Bencivenga, James    | Teacher of Mathematics | UHS              | 6/29/17          | Resignation   |                           |
| Oudeh, Raeda         | Cafeteria Aide         | Livingston Elem. | 6/15/17          | Resignation   |                           |
| Santangelo, Nicholas | Teacher of Spanish     | Washington Elem. | 9/1/17           | Resignation   |                           |

**Retirements**

| <u>Name</u>        | <u>Position</u> | <u>Location</u>      | <u>Effective Date: (Noted on letter)</u> | <u>Reason</u> | <u>Date of Hire Not including leave of absences. (May include Substituting history)</u> | <u>Attend BOE meeting</u> |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------|--|---------------|---|---------------------------|
| Salvatore, Raymond | Principal       | Burnet Middle School | 9/1/17                                   | Retirement    | 02/01/1987  | No                        |



P-3. APPROVE LEAVES

Approve leaves for the following staff:

**Leave of Absences**

| Name           | Position                        | Location                    | Leave Dates  | Leave Type Regarding updated info only.      | Notes/ Corrections                             |
|----------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|--|
| Ford, Erian    | Teacher-1 <sup>st</sup> Grade   | Hannah Caldwell Elem.       | 10/13/17-4/12/17<br>Return: 4/13/17                      | Paid Maternity and FMLA/NJFLA (Concurrently) | Non FMLA/NJFLA after allotted unpaid 12 weeks. |
| Marshall, Gary | Custodian-2 <sup>nd</sup> Shift | Burnet Middle School        | 6/5/17- 8/8/17<br><b>(End date is subject to change)</b> |  | (End date is subject to change)                |
| Sickles, Robin | Teacher of Art                  | Washington/Livingston Elem. | 9/1/2017-6/30/18   | FMLA   | Up to 12 weeks                                 |

P-4. APPROVE EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT – VIEIRA

Approve Employment Contract of Manuel E. Vieira, Assistant Business Administrator for the 2017-2018 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

P-5. APPROVE TERMINATION OF EMPLOYEE

Approve termination of Employee #12484 effective August 1, 2017.

P-6. APPROVEMENT AMENDMENT TO AFFIRMATIVE ACTION OFFICERS

Approve amendment to Affirmative Action Officers previously approved at June 20, 2017 Board meeting as follows: Appointment of Gerry Benaquista as Affirmative Action Officer, Akua Boakye as Assistant Affirmative Action Officer and Benjamin Kloc as Affirmative Action Officer for classroom practices for the 2017-2018 school year at no cost to the District.

P-7. APPROVE JOB DESCRIPTION – DIRECTOR OF INSTRUCTION AND FUNDED PROGRAMS

Approve job description for the position of Director of Instruction and Funded Programs, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

P-8. APPROVE JOB DESCRIPTION – INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY SPECIALIST

Approve job description for the position of Instructional Technology Specialist, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

P-9. APPROVE AMENDED RESOLUTION PROVIDING SALARY AND FRINGE BENEFITS FOR STAFF IN CENTRAL OFFICE

Approve amended resolution providing salary and fringe benefits for all staff in the Central Office for the period from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Arminio stated I have a question for Mr. Griggs and the rest of the Board. There are some questions that I have in P-1 – can I ask the Board to table P-1 and vote on it after our executive session after all of the questions would be answered? Mr. Griggs stated it would depend on what you are going to ask questions on and whether an employee has been riced. You can ask your questions but they would be limited to only the employees that have been riced.

Mr. Nufrio stated there seems to be a little contradiction here. We already have a named individual here so I would assume that person was riced. Mr. Griggs stated yes, but you don't have the right to talk about the person in executive session unless you tell them that they have the right to make it public. Mr. Nufrio stated talking specifically about an individual that was named for a transfer. He should have been riced - the new rice law. Mr. Griggs stated we go two ways, we have the general announcement with the agenda that goes out and we also tell individuals in addition. The new rice law relates to having a name listed on the agenda - any type of board action whatever. In addition, if you are going to talk about that person in executive session, they still have the right to say "I want this matter discussed publicly". Mr. Nufrio stated I know that but I'm assuming that the rice letter would have included some discussion as it should have. Mr. Griggs stated I don't have the answer to that one. Mr. Nufrio stated we have some transfers here and without going into any details because I don't have details, I'm curious as to purpose and the reason and foundation for it.

Mr. Tatum stated I want to bring something to the table because the Personnel Committee has been informed as to the nature of the transfer and counsel has been involved in the process and if there is a situation that needs to be taken to executive session I think that was the time that could have been brought up and we could have put it to executive session rather than this forum.

Mr. Arminio stated the Personnel Committee heard it and have no question about it but I think the whole Board should hear those before they vote. Mr. Tatum stated Mr. Griggs can we table the motion, talk in very general terms procedurally but not talk about anything – just the legal thing. Mr. Griggs stated no. Your options here are take a vote; motion to table that particular part or move it to the next month. That's your options right now. I would expect the one challenge consent wise, I don't know what the administration does in terms of personnel and that stuff, it's about timing. I defer to you.

Mr. Tatum stated the next meeting is the 22<sup>nd</sup> and unfortunately, we need to move to fill vacancies. Mr. Nufrio stated I think the Board should have an opportunity to hear the details. Call me noisy if you want, but I would like to know what it is about.

Mr. Griggs stated my recommendation is call it from what you are going to vote on, give the Board an opportunity to understand, as Mr. Nufrio says, move it to August and in the interim the Superintendent will do whatever planning he needs to do so that he is in the best position. Mr. Nufrio stated I'm not questioning Mr. Tatum's prerogative. Mr. Griggs stated I know that. Mr. Nufrio stated what I'm saying is the Board should be cognoscente of what the basis for it is. Otherwise it is a standout. If it was part of a whole mishmash of others, it would be no question, we wouldn't have noticed it. Mr. Griggs stated I'm good with that. Mr. Tatum stated I'm fine with it.

Mr. Griggs stated so what I would do is I need a motion and a second to table that one part of the motion. Once you approve that there is no deliberation of it – once you approve that it will be put on the table and lay there until the next meeting. In the interim, the administration can communicate with the Board as to the reason for the recommendation of the Superintendent and you can take whatever action you need in August. Motion to remove it from the table and then vote on it.

Moved by Mr. Arminio, seconded by Mr. Nufrio, that P-1 (D'Avanzo transfer) be tabled.

#### DISCUSSION:

Mr. Nufrio stated we would do that in executive session. Mr. Griggs stated not tonight. Mr. Nufrio stated not tonight, at the next meeting. Mr. Griggs stated or before that. The Superintendent can send a memo to the Board.

Mr. Griggs stated he has been riced. Mr. Arminio stated I did say that. Didn't I? Mr. McDowell asked so what about that resolution that was just made? Mr. Griggs stated that is still good. You want it tabled so you can talk about it in executive session and come back out and vote on the motion.

Mr. Arminio stated my motion was to table the transfer. Mr. Griggs stated and there was a second.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

#### Vote for P-1 (all other items) through P-9

#### DISCUSSION:

Mrs. Minneci stated P-9, the staff basically following what the teachers do except they are 12 months. As far as rolling over their sick time, personal time unused – rolls over to sick time the next year – so like the teachers? Mr. Benaquista stated a lot of the language follows with the teachers and administrators contracts. Mrs. Minneci stated for my own clarification, 11 months – they get 11 sick days? Mr. Benaquista stated yes and I think they get 5 personal days.

I can forward it to you. It's just a little different. Mrs. Minneci stated and certain supervisors have a little differt. Mr. Benaquista stated the 11-month principals are a little different. Supervisors are really considered 10 with 10 working days but we call it certain things because of payroll purposes – everyone is paid over 12 months. Mrs. Minneci stated that always helps even when you are working ten.

One more thing the instructional technology specialist, is that going to be Mrs. Paul's assistant? P-8. Mr. Tatum stated no that is a person who will work on the professional development side because we need someone to do that. It is help for her.

Mr. Nufrio stated is that the appropriate title? Mr. Tatum stated yes, I believe that is the title that they are using now from the State. I think Mrs. Paul did the research on it. I actually saw an advertisement for that on Sunday in another school district. Mr. Nufrio stated just in case somebody thinks it may not be.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

#### POLICY COMMITTEE:

Mr. Arminio presented the following policies for first reading. The first one this was done before and the Policy Committee met and went over it at length and there were changes made, it was sent out to the committee that worked on it and some slight changes were made. I think you were all informed of those changes. This is a revision of the original policy.

Policy two is the acceptable use policy for devices in the school and it is standard.

The third one is grading system and that was spearheaded by Mr. Benaquista and a committee of teachers and administrators and parents to work on the grading system.

Those are the three policies that we are going to look at for the first time and next month will be the second reading and if you have any questions you can ask me in the meantime or Mr. Benaquista, Mr. Tatum or Mrs. Moses and get those questions answered before we vote on it at the next meeting.

POL-1.Policy 5141.5 – Student Suicide Prevention and Crisis Intervention, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes (first reading).

POL-2.Policy 2361 – Acceptable Use Policy, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes (first reading).

POL-3.Regulation 2624 - Grading System, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes (first reading).

## DISCUSSION:

Mr. Monge stated I spoke with Mr. Benaquista – first of all I want to thank Mr. Arminio and Mr. Tatum for hearing me out on that policy and all the work you guys have done on making those changes. I definitely appreciate that. A couple of things I mentioned to Mr. Benaquista and he said he was going to look at. Mr. Benaquista stated one thing on the suggested list, we left off one of our nearby facilities and that is Overlook and I was going to ask Mr. Griggs if we can add that because we have a list of suggested sites that they can go to and if we can add Overlook because that was an oversight and that should have been put in there. Mr. Griggs stated o.k. Mr. Benaquista stated so I was going to mention that tonight. The other thing that Mr. Monge asked was if down the road if we can look to see if there are any closer places that can service our kids. Right now we have an approved site in Montclair. Kim, how many years ago did we bring them onboard. Mrs. Conti stated that was for specific reasons. We worked with Mr. Damato because of the way the clearances were, we were working with our attorney's for verb age that was needed and that was the closest but if the verbiage is changing. Mr. Benaquista stated we can maybe look and possibly find someone with cheaper prices and more local.

Mr. Monge stated the biggest concern that I have is if we have a preferred list, the first one says it is Board approved, so when a parents sees that. Mr. Nufrio stated we did make that change. Mr. Monge stated it is still there. Mr. Nufrio stated we talked to Gerry about it. It was paid and approved by the Board or something to that affect. We did address that. Mr. Benaquista stated I think what Jeff is saying is right under it is a suggested resource list. It makes it sound like it is part of it and that the Board is also approving these sites. Mr. Nufrio stated you were only to do it for that one site. Mr. Benaquista stated right but I think what we need to do is break the list into two.

Mr. Monge stated let me just elaborate and then we can move on. The biggest thing that I'm saying is if we are offering x-amount of dollars towards an evaluation because you don't have insurance then why not offer that opportunity to the other people that we have on the list to provide the same service for the same dollar amount. We only have one group and I think that it seems to me and I don't know Mr. Griggs and we don't have to talk about it tonight, but to me it seems like a little bit of a liability if we are pushing folks only to one group versus a selection of opportunity and I don't know how that selection process went down but just something to think about. Mr. Griggs stated I will look at the policy.

Mr. Nufrio stated it is really no different than when we send somebody out for drug testing. We have a site that the Board approved and does pay for as long as the criteria is met. Mr. Monge stated big difference. Mr. Nufrio stated I'm just saying the same concept. Mr. Monge stated I think it is the same concept but I think it is two very different situations – going to get drug testing versus getting an evaluation of whether the kid can come back to school. Mr. Nufrio stated I think the ADA has not specific language that says you must have more than one site. I think it is spreading ourselves thin. If the one site is that site and the others are alternate sites and some payment can be made towards them. I'm not looking to argue that. I think you are looking at too many straws.

Mr. Benaquista stated the only thing I would like to research is can we get a more local site because a lot of our parents might not have transportation and I think I can look to see if any new facilities are there and to do the business with us and get them approved – as long as they fit what we need. That is my feeling on it now and I don't think we have looked at any new facilities in quite some time. I think moving forward I can do that and I think it would help our community.

#### TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS:

Moved by Mr. Monge, seconded by Mrs. Regis-Darby, that the following resolutions be adopted

##### T-1. APPROVE PRESIDIO CONTRACT

Approve Presidio Contract for Cisco Smartnet warranty renewal for the 2017-2018 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes (Acct #11-000-252-340-55-55-IT55 (\$22,536.25)).

##### T-2. APPROVE CDI

Approve CDI (Computer Design & Integration) for upgrade for middle school one-to-one equipment only for the 2017-2018 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes (Acct #12-000-252-730-55-55-IT55 (\$301,011.63) – lease purchase).

##### T-3. APPROVE ASPIRE

Approve Aspire for engineering for middle school one-to-one project for the 2017-2018 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes (Acct #12-000-252-730-55-55-IT55 (\$53,244.64) – lease purchase).

##### T-4. APPROVE RESOLUTION TO PARTICIPATE IN FUTURE READY SCHOOLS

Approve resolution to participate in Future Ready Schools – New Jersey for the 2017-2018 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

##### T-5. APPROVE LIGHTPATH CONTRACT

Approve LightPath Contract for upgrade of internet and preparation of cloud access for the years 2018-2020, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes (Acct #11-000-230-520-01-XX (\$28,500/per month)).

Dr. Francis stepped out of meeting.

#### DISCUSSION:

Mr. Monge stated what I would like Mr. Brennan and Mrs. Paul and for everybody's educational brief overview. Mr. Brennan stated I'll do it I have a technology background. This migration from Comcast, our current provider, is only 2 gigabytes as far as a pipeline for data in our District. We are looking to migrate to LightPath which is five times that much – 10 gigabytes. The scenario is that we would like to start with LightPath in January and there is an overlap with our existing contract with Comcast. There will be an overlap of six months where the contracts will run concurrently from January through June 2018 at an additional budgeted cost – we did budget for this amount - \$168,000 additional. Comcast is \$16,000 per month plus

LightPath is \$28,000 a month. We will be paying both of those amounts but the bandwidth increases from 2 gigabytes to 10 gigabytes and the pipeline has increased fivefold. What it does is it enables the District to run business operations, instructional and student usage and also the PARCC testing all at the same time. We are also going to have parallel internet service provider – access to the internet for six months.

In addition to that and very important is a new topology designed for the District network which will provide redundancy for our data and disaster recovery protection with backups to both Newark and Secaucus data warehouses. We don't have any of that right now. As of June 30, 2018, Comcast contract expires and falls off of our books.

Mr. Nufrio stated Mr. Brennan I would like to see Mr. Griggs review the Comcast contract only to see the nature of the business has changed and our needs have changed and perhaps there is a proviso that nullify or void the contract because they can't make that demand. Mrs. Paul stated because of the contract – if you break the contract, they charge you fees. Mr. Nufrio stated I understand that Mrs. Paul. It is not because I don't understand contracts. I'm saying our needs have changed dramatically because the needs of the students. I'm sure that there is something in that language that Comcast can't provide which we need – that is what I'm saying or we can work something out with them. We just shouldn't sit complacent and pay \$16,000 a month. When will LightPath be ready to be up and functional? If that was to happen and by some miracle Mr. Griggs finds some loophole, is LightPath ready to hit the ground running? Mrs. Paul stated LightPath won't be ready until January 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Brennan stated infrastructure needs to be installed. Mrs. Paul stated they need to run the fiber. Mr. Nufrio stated six months is \$96,000. Mr. Brennan stated it doesn't hurt.

Mr. Monge stated the answer based on the feedback we received is no. What Vito is saying is if that is what we need and they are not able to provide it maybe there is some language in the contract.

Mrs. Regis-Darby stated can Mrs. Paul give the Board a little information about the future ready school because I think it is a very good initiative. Mrs. Paul stated New Jersey used to have a program where if you were a school district that did something exceptional, something very different you could apply to the Department of Education and become what is called a "blue ribbon" school or school district. Because of how technology is changing and so many districts are changing to one-to-one, and how the whole concept of individualized learning and everything else, New Jersey has now decided to adopt something called Future Ready Initiative. The Future Ready Initiative actually talks about how are you preparing our students to be future ready, to be in a society that we in the USA are going to be expecting to happen in the next several years.

One of the things with the Future Ready Initiative is Mr. Tatum already signed a pledge that we were going to put resources together to get stuff together to move forward. We started the one-to-one program with the high school students which has been a success. Because of that reason one of the things with that we are moving forward to move it down to the middle school and slowly move down to the elementary schools. With this resolution from the Board, it also states that the Board also supports the idea of moving our school district forward to become future ready. What happens there if we come up with a program which somehow is exceptional,

which is different than anything else, then we can submit it to the State saying our high school is a future ready school and then the high school becomes certified as a future ready and you become a model to the State so other school districts come in and see how you did it. It has to be able to be recognized by other school districts and other buildings in your districts. So that is what future ready is about. I thought it was a great program.

Mr. Monge stated I want to give Mrs. Paul a lot of credit for all the work she is doing; especially behind the scenes here. We have these committee meetings that we spent probably an hour going over all the jargon and the like and make sure that everyone knows, Mr. Tatum and Mr. Brennan understands what is coming to this Board. I just want to recognize her for what she is doing and trying to get us to the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Vote on T-1, T-2, T-3, T-4

AYE: Mr. Arminio, Mrs. Minneci, Mr. Monge, Mr. Nufrio, Mrs. Regis-Darby, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Zuena, Mr. McDowell

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Vote on T-5

AYE: Mr. Arminio, Mr. Monge, Mr. Nufrio, Mrs. Regis-Darby, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Zuena, Mr. McDowell

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Mrs. Minneci

MOTION CARRIED

Dr. Francis returned to meeting.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Moved by Mr. Monge, seconded by Mrs. Regis-Darby that the Board concur with the bills listed in the permanent bound register appended to these minutes and be ordered for payment.

DISCUSSION:

Mrs. Minneci stated there are so many wonderful things going on in all our buildings but it was brought to my attention that some of that money that was moved and I called the School Boards and there are supposed to be two options and I don't know, so correct me if I'm wrong, but this is what I was told and I checked it out. I like what is going on. I voted yes. If you can move money around that is wonderful. But it says that either has to go to paydown the Bond or go back to the taxpayer. Correct me if I'm wrong, I don't know. I called the School Boards and they said that. The \$1.8 million we moved to the capital funds. We moved \$5 million and there was \$1.8 from the bonds for Jefferson leftover and we moved it to the capital funds to use for further projects which we are doing.

Mr. Monge stated the \$4.8. Mrs. Minneci stated but we moved it because it was left over from the project. I was informed and I'm not going to take anybody's word for it so I called the



School Boards and asked what are the options and they told me to either put it aside to paydown the Bond when it is due or it goes back to the taxpayer.

Mr. Griggs stated what I would suggest to do is Greg talk to your auditor because if I recall there were three sources of money from Jefferson – one was the bonding, one was some type of grant and something else. My recollection is that the bond proceeds were spent so therefore what was left was to go back. That was the breakdown that I received. I would double check that but that may answer the question. If they were accurate in what they told you, if it was straight-up bond proceeds – but that was a different type of project, unusual in my experience but a good thing – good offsets, I would just double check that with the auditors to make sure.

Mrs. Minneci stated I don't want us to have a problem. Mr. Griggs stated I appreciate that. Mr. Monge stated we looked at the fact that it was three sources and one of the points that I made was that we spent the debt but we threw all this money in capital reserves and then we didn't use it and then it got stuck there for years. Mrs. Minneci stated when I heard that I just thought and all these great things that are going on in the high school and all the schools. I just don't want us to have a problem.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Mrs. Minneci, Mrs. Williams

MOTION CARRIED

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Arminio stated I would like to add to Mrs. Moses list of programs. Part of the Burnet Title I students – today was the first time they went to Caldwell Parsonage for a fieldtrip and approximately 40 students today visited the Caldwell Parsonage and toured it and there will be two other groups going and they will learn about their Town. Just to add to your wonderful list of what is going on during the summer.

Two other things, don't forget, put it on your list of things to do, September 24<sup>th</sup> is the Mayor's 5K Race. We voted on it tonight. The Chamber of Commerce does all the work behind the scenes but the police and the fire and the medical units participate and our maintenance staff does a lot of work in getting it set up and to make sure it is a success. Part of the money goes to a local family. I think this is our 7<sup>th</sup> year. It starts on the track and goes through Town and ends on the track.

Thirdly, put on your calendar so you can't say you didn't know – Monday, November 20<sup>th</sup> is the Union High School Athletic Hall of Fame induction dinner and ceremony at Galloping Hill at Five Points. This will be our third class so it has been six years already since the hall of fame has been on. When you go into the gym, you can see the banners and the plaques in the hallway outside of the gym. Going back to the 1930's – we have a lot of catching up to do.

Mr. Nufrio stated the last few months I made comments with regards to somehow enhancing our vocational program and I guess it is time for me to repeat my specific personal concerns and I trust that the Board shares that concern and to reach all of our children we really need to expand or do something more than we have done, and not for any reason other than things did change over the number of years – I should know because I'm part of that change as well. We can't just remain status quo with that. I am not asking for an update. I'm just reiterating what I did say for the past few months that vocational education is not really the standard right now for most districts. They have abandoned a lot of it. The focus that used to be and I think I did some quick numbers and we spent roughly \$15,000 per child per year, multiple that by 13-14 years and it is a big investment and half of our students that graduate probably will not complete higher education and go into some work capacity. Minimum wage or a little bit more and I don't think we can pat ourselves on the back if we allow that to continue. I think it is a big step forward but I think that if we take that step forward as we have done with other things, the IT department and all that. I think then we can pat ourselves completely on the back and pat each other on the back because the kids would have gained from it. Please work on that and if you have to burn the candle at midnight. Mr. Tatum stated I'm already doing that.

Mrs. Zuena asked are you saying to widen our horizon of vocational in our school? Or to what is offered to our children? Mr. Nufrio stated or in conjunction with some partnership. Mrs. Zuena stated so besides the Union County Vocational. Mr. Nufrio stated Union County Vocational should not be the escape route. Mrs. Zuena stated being a vocational graduate from Union High School I can attest to that. I went to the cosmetology program here and benefitted greatly from that. I have high reserve to vocation. Mr. Nufrio stated there is much that can be done. I was a former principal of a vocational high school and I can tell you I cried when the State tore down and picked away at many programs that were very viable. They were getting jobs that were paying more than minimum wage and now they have to go to Lincoln Tech which costs about \$35,000. It is a fortune and add that to the cost of what the taxpayer already has paid for 13-14 years. Not all our kids are going to become Dr. Francis and engineers or lawyers and let's be practical. If half of our kids don't get to that higher education, what have we really accomplished? I'm not impending the District.

Mr. Monge stated we are actually going to look at the facility plan and trying to put some dollars towards that and for the folks that don't know and are here. We have a 5-year facility plan and it is a lot of money and there is a lot of deferred maintenance that we need to take care of and we are doing a lot of that over the summer which is great but if we all have dug into those books, there is a lot of work that needs to be done and it needs to come from somewhere. You bring that point up about the scratching; I think we have figured out for the most part every dollar that has been hiding in accounts that we have and been dormant. One of the things that we need to start looking at is going forward is projections so we are going to look at what we do going forward and try to go after those capital projects.

We have done a great job, I think, we passed on two years of bank cap and this budget and all the work that we are doing over the summer time we are spending the money and we know that we are not carrying these large balances like we have done historically. A lot of these expenses are going up and our revenue for the most part is flat. Mr. Brennan stated less than 2% of the tax level - \$87 million is the tax levy – if we get 2% on that it amounts to \$1.7 million but

if you divide the \$1.7 million by our total operating budget which is \$131 million, it is 1.3%. The rest of our budget is funded by State and federal aid. Mr. Monge stated we need to continue to balance the budget and push things but the reality is folks need to recognize that \$1.7 million in additional revenue and open up a book and look at one school and look at the cost associated with that one school. We talked about trying to have a better message as it pertains to where your tax dollars going. We heard a lot about that. We heard a lot about the reality that what part of your dollar is going to the dollars and the reality is it is below the State level. The Township of Union is actually below the State averages as far as how much your dollar goes to schools.

Mr. Tatum stated I think this needs to be said and said now. We are in a time where we are underfunded, we have flat State aid, we are capped at 2% on the tax levy; yet I hear Mr. Nufrio and other Board members and the community wanting us to do more. We have done more in the past 2-3 years. Three years' ago you didn't have a summer program. Let's be upfront about it. A number of things that we have done despite the criticism that we get out there – it is far more than the years when we were ready to focus on the tax levy and we were laying people off...enough said, more to come.

Mr. Nufrio stated Jeff what do you mean less than a dollar, less than the State, I don't understand. Mr. Monge stated as far as the tax dollar – the taxes that we pay – a percentage of that goes towards the school district. Mr. Nufrio stated every penny that is spent goes to the schools. Mr. Monge stated no, the tax dollars – part of it goes to the County, part of it goes to the Town. Mr. Nufrio stated never mind; I thought you were suggesting something else. Mr. Monge stated no.

The other thing I wanted to confirm with Mr. Brennan – did we get our increase on our interest rate from ConnectOne. Mr. Brennan stated yes, that is good. I think we talked about \$200,000 a year. Mr. Monge stated that is fantastic.

The other thing is we have a citizen here with a camera and this is old business because I mentioned this last year and I know that historically and I just want to get educated on this – last year I said beyond the fact we were cutting out the additional work meeting. I questioned our inability to video tape our meetings. I know that there was something about the lack of staffing but one I wanted to try to get some feedback on that and two going back to last year, how do we change that. We have a meeting next month and I know that we are going to agenda out and items out earlier which is very different on how we have done it historically so that is a good step in the right direction. Can you talk to us as it pertains to us? Mr. Tatum stated one of the concerns was it is during the summer time and again the availability of who will be filming the meeting which I know is not filmed. The other thing is where we are facility wise and trying to get into the building physically. There are all kinds of construction projects going on this summer but on top of that in the summer there is a cleaning schedule and getting the building open for September. I think in consideration for those things, those are some of your drawbacks. Custodial staff to be honest with you have a difficult time with all the programs that we have in place to begin with because they are cleaning around us.

Barry I will defer to you as to when those areas that we use are cleaned during the summer time because I know it is a huge undertaking. Mr. Loessel stated we shift a lot of

programs around to other areas so we can get it done. At Battle Hill the whole school is being used. We can't start cleaning that until the program is over and we are also putting brand new flooring in the hallway so that will really tie us up so we may have to do some second shift stuff over there. The high school is going to be a really hard job this year.

Mr. Nufrio stated a question was posed last year when I was President and I believe we did give some response to it. Certainly it was logistics. It was impractical and it has been going on since I have been on the Board but I can't speak from before that but I'm sure it was also. We still meet with committees and perhaps it should be set for one night so that you are not stretched all over the summer as to committee meetings. That I might suggest that we pick a day or night that committee meetings are held. It doesn't require to have a meeting that evening, a worksession that is, but if one is necessary, one could follow it.

Mr. Monge stated can I ask a recommendation – can we figure it out because if you can do it on an iPhone now a days which is an easy thing, do we need a full staff and crew to be able to set up a similar type of set up and just put it on our website. Mr. Nufrio stated it is the facility. This room can't accommodate the number of people that would normally show up at the library. Mrs. Zuena stated it won't be televised live. How would we get our footage to them to televise.

Mr. Griggs stated if you are going to have a Board meeting, it seems to me you need to allow the public to have access to your Board meeting so you are entirely transparent. While you can televise which is certainly helpful to people who can't make it to the meeting; I strongly recommend and your format now seems to be working and if you are talking about committee meetings? Mr. Monge stated I'm talking about our Board meetings. We have two Board meetings over the summer time that is not televised and that is what I'm talking about. Mr. Nufrio stated the televised is not mandated – is that correct Mr. Griggs? Mr. Griggs stated no. Mr. Nufrio stated as long as you are doing the public notice and they know where to come, you are meeting the standards. Mr. Monge stated it is not about meeting the standards. Even if you video tape the meeting here, I think that is more than what we are doing. At minimum we can figure out how to do that and then we can go from there. I think that is a simple idea. If you are recording it and where you are putting it, that could be the next day. Many times we have had a meeting recorded and not live so you can either post it the next day on our website or we can work with the Town – Channel 34 as it pertains to that but I think there is a way of doing that at a minimum that we can have it recorded.

Mr. Tatum stated Mr. Griggs please direct me, I know that the worksessions are meetings that we traditionally have not had during the summer months, but is it not the prerogative of the Board to schedule the meetings that they deem necessary. I don't think it is my prerogative. I think I can request a meeting but I thought the annual meeting schedule is held by the Board of Education. Therefore, I think it is an issue Jeff if the Board so desires to have a meeting. A worksession just like we have September to June and certainly that is something that the Board can exercise. Historically, Boards have come and gone and they follow the same pattern that the Board was set before them previously and the eleven years I am in this office, that is what I have seen but I think that was always a prerogative of the Board.

Mr. Monge stated all I'm talking about is videotaping the meeting. Mrs. Zuena stated all he wants to know is if the two summer meetings can be televised. Mr. Tatum stated I heard two things not just videotaping I also heard about the fact that we don't have a worksession. Mr. Monge stated I didn't say that I think we spoke to how we are going to deal with that by trying to next month get the agenda out early, which is the first time, and our committees can meet prior to that. I think that is a good solution to that so that is what I'm talking about. I'm just talking about recording it for August and I'm sure we can figure that out. Mr. Griggs stated you can make that decision for sure. Mr. Monge asked is that a straw vote? Mr. McDowell stated it will probably need some discussion. Mr. Griggs stated I might suggest you request the administration to give you a couple of options if they are available and getting back to the Board so you can discuss it. It will probably be better because I know in some places are the local TV station handles it; other places it is handled by the municipality. They are the main player and some places the actual board does it. There are various options and the key thing is having the dependability of having people there who will come to the meetings. Mr. Monge stated that would be great if that could be offered. Mr. McDowell asked can we consider that new business.

Mrs. Williams can we go back to the capital fund; I don't mean to harp on this but I just want to make sure that what we are doing is not against the law because it is my understanding that the bond proceeds weren't expended and that they were still available and that they should be going back to the taxpayers. Mr. McDowell stated Mr. Griggs can you. Mr. Griggs stated I'm not sure who told you that but what I recommend strongly is that he talks to your auditor because the audit every year tracks every capital project so you can take a look at that and I understand the concern obviously. Mrs. Williams stated legally we are supposed to be giving the money back. Mr. Griggs stated if it indeed came from the bond proceeds, than that is different but if it came from the two other sources and they were expended and you can see that in the audit report. It will be under the project. Mr. Brennan stated the auditor advised us to do that. Mr. Griggs stated that is the way it usually works. Every year they come and close the project out – where you spent the money. Mr. Brennan stated his name is John Mooney. Mr. Nufrio stated the bond money was expended. Mrs. Williams asked it was absolutely, positively was? Mr. Nufrio stated that is what I recall they said.

#### COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC:

Sal Terreza stated I'm taking off my press hat and putting on my station manager hat. You have a Shared Services Agreement with the Town – it is a simple request. Either your staff would cover it and if they can't cover it, the Shared Services Agreement kicks in and our staff will take over - TV34 coverage. Also you guys have a policy and you guys can vote to turn off the cameras any time you want. If you feel you don't want to video tape it, the President can say kill the feed. Mr. Monge asked has it ever been used? Mrs. Zuena stated the request – has there ever been requests made for meetings other than what is scheduled. Mr. Terreza stated not since I have been here.

Mr. Arminio stated when we had one of our meetings in one of the schools – you came. Mr. Terreza stated we shot it because there wasn't any personnel available from the Board of Ed. Also, the Town has the ability to live stream meetings which we do now. We have the technology, all we need is your wi-fi code. This is nice but the sound stinks, you need to put

three microphones on the table. Mrs. Zuena stated if we had a Union Board of Ed page, you can livestream through FaceBook. Mr. Terezza stated we can go through any service. Mrs. Zuena stated so it can be live on our website. Mr. Terezza stated we would have to work that out.

Francis Perkins stated I was on the Board when that bond issue went out and by the way the third source of revenue on that Mr. Griggs was the sale of our ITSF license. Does anyone know what ITSF is? Mrs. Zuena stated the antenna. Mr. Perkins stated no. We had an FCC license – ITSF broadband service which is now educational broadcast service. We paid nothing for it and we sold it for \$17 million. That sale is unmatched by any board, anywhere in the country. We live in the world's number one media market and that was key to this.

The other part of this is and Mrs. Minneci really raises what I think is a really serious question. It is pretty obvious Mr. Griggs that you didn't do a counsel's report on it or opinion of counsel on this issue. I'm not sure if Mr. Brennan talked to anybody before but this is something. Mr. Griggs stated I wasn't here. Mr. Perkins stated for the expenditure of the funds. Mr. Griggs stated I get you. Mr. Perkins stated you didn't do that. If there is an audit report or if Mr. Brennan did something, it would be very helpful for us to do. But the philosophy of the policy underlining this is that you can't go and say and listen I'm going to bond for a lot more money than I know that I need so as to use funds for purposes other than what are stated in the bond issue.

There are a couple of things you can do with money that is leftover. One is you can pay down the principle. The other thing is you can repurpose of it. But what you have to do for repurposing is to put out a bond referendum and get voter approval or use it for purposes that are related to the original bond. Obviously you didn't need it for that purpose.

We did some analysis here and I would like to see the analysis that backs up your opinion, including the auditor's report. I think that is public information. I would like to see what their opinion is. But in my view this thing looks like it is costing taxpayers. The other alternative is tax relief. It is costing taxpayers in this Town \$300 a year per residence for the money that you moved from the bond issue proceeds to the projects. That is a lot of money folks. What at least from my understanding of how it was done, there is a serious violation of the bond law here. I understand that you don't have an opinion of bond counsel either. I really find that this is something that the Board should have and think it is serious enough to cause some really serious thought on your part as to how you are going to deal with this.

If I'm wrong tell me, show me the auditor's report, the analysis you did and what was provided to the Board.

Dr. Francis stated Mr. Perkins you were President and everyone - \$5 million – sat in that meeting. Mr. Griggs stated it is a public session – he is allowed to give his comments. Mr. McDowell stated we don't have to respond. Mr. Perkins stated you absolutely don't have to respond now but I'm making a formal request for such a response to the analysis that was done by the auditor and I presume Mr. Brennan you can provide that to me. My email address is [frperkins@comcast.net](mailto:frperkins@comcast.net) and you can provide that to me. This is serious money to the taxpayers

in this Town and it is not relevant Dr. Francis as whether I was president of the board or not. Mr. Griggs stated let him make his comments. Sir do you have any more comments?

Mr. Perkins stated I raised the issue but there will be follow-up on this because I need this information. What I think the Board did was grossly illegal based on my understanding. Mr. Nufrio stated I'm taking attrition to that. Only because I too was part of the Board, the same Board you were president on and we didn't know that there was that much money left over until we looked into it.

Mr. Perkins stated I think I have 30 seconds. Mr. Griggs stated I don't think you do, I have five minutes here. I don't know what you have. We thank you very much and we will see what we can do. Mr. Perkins stated that is great and I expect the auditor's report or analysis from Mr. Brennan.

Mr. Griggs stated you are not giving him direction but I understand what you are looking for. Thank you very much. I appreciate your time.

Jill Hall stated I wanted to thank the Board for their commitment to Project Graduation. I had the opportunity to attend Project Graduation with the senior class. We loaded them up on buses and we took them down to Funplex in Mt. Laurel where they had it. I wasn't too thrilled on how long it took to get there but they literally grazed through the place the entire night and they had a great time.

The Board was able to provide busing. It is very expensive to make those trips and we didn't want to charge them. Mr. Tatum stated the Superintendent's office paid for that. Mrs. Hall stated thank you and one of the points I just wanted you to consider – I know we are forward thinking on the budget – so maybe consider putting a line item in the budget so that we can take a little bit of the pressure off the senior advisors to raise all of that money continuously. So if they go into it knowing that they are not going to have to worry about busing or however much money you decide to be committed to that every year, it would be less than what they would have to raise and more people could be involved. The Chaperones were great. The kids were amazing. They are all so serious about graduating and then they had a chance just to be kids and be together with their friends.

Mr. Tatum stated that is one more program put in place that has come about since the enactment of the 2% on the tax levy. It is one more thing that we added to this District and that I'm glad you brought up because unfortunately it goes unnoticed and we do contribute to that. Your point is well taken.

Mrs. Minneci asked how many students went? Mrs. Hall stated seven buses so about 300 kids. I would have loved if everybody would have decided to go but they had the option to go or not go. I think the ones that didn't go were disappointed that they didn't go. It was great.

Mr. Nufrio stated I think I suggested a few months back when we were talking about Project Graduation and I was part of that in my former district – partnerships with certain companies. Anything that they can contribute towards something that is special for the kids and

everything is special for them. Whether you give them a free ride on a bus or a free pass to a movie and I think it would be worthwhile looking into and you said the committee would delve into that for next year. Mrs. Hall stated we really have to start now for next year because it costs a lot. I can't say enough about how hard they worked. Mr. Tatum stated hats off to the PTA and Latee McLeod who is a principal now at Franklin School who started that and who had a real hard time getting it implemented. Mrs. Minneci stated I'm jealous because we tried it and it got knocked right out of the box and that was 2005. Mrs. Zuena stated here? Mrs. Minneci stated yes so I was glad to see that they started it. It is a great experience for them and you know that they are safe. Mr. Tatum stated this is our third year.

Mrs. Hall stated I wanted to comment on this before the vote but I think you guys forgot to ask for comments from the public before we started. The Director of Instruction position that was voted on that tonight – Mrs. Guilfoyle is currently running Title I. Is she no longer going to be doing Title I? Mr. Tatum stated it is a job description for a potential candidate and please understand that one of the things that we have identified in this District is Title I is being operated by a person who is also trying to operate a full curriculum department. It truly is a disservice to this District and to the availability and management of those funds. I spoke directly with the person who is the representative of the State of New Jersey and my question to him was considering the fact that those funds have been frozen since 2010 – when there was an audit report done in the District and unfortunately we did not do well on it – should we be operating in the manner that we are operating. His answer was no. I came from a district half this size and it was someone's primary responsibility was curriculum. Also management of all the programs that we have going on. Mrs. Hall stated I know it was more than Title I. Mr. Tatum stated the teaching staff that is involved. There are a lot of issues that need to be rectified. The more we want to change the more we want to stay the same. It is time to keep moving forward. It is 2017.

Mrs. Hall stated Mrs. Moses didn't mention that the summer program is a bridge program also for grades 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grade – including a social emotional piece. Students everyday are having an opportunity to do a little work on transition from middle school to high school and we are working on a pre-test on the first day and we identified some things and we are tailoring the lessons on it.

On the clearance for the students who are being sent out for psych evaluations. I can assure you that there are local places. Many of them will provide very exceptional screenings for our kids. My agency in Newark is one of the contractors for the City of Newark. I did hear somebody say that we can get it cheaper and I can assure you that you can't get it cheaper and you shouldn't get it cheaper. What we are currently paying is not enough to do a satisfactory exam. You have with a contract you get a lower price because they know they are going to get volume but I think we need to be cognoscente of the price but don't be dissuaded by the price because it is a really comprehensive evaluation. The agency I work in charges \$250 for a screening and that is about the average. There are many local places that would make things a lot more convenient now that we have formats in place.



Steven Le stated the first thing I wanted to bring up is thank you Mr. Monge for bringing up my idea that I proposed last summer – look at the minutes. Mr. Monge stated you can have it. Mr. Le stated I think one of the greatest hallmarks here is the commitment to transparency and as you can see here, it really takes very little equipment to set something up to launch something. So if there is an opportunity to continue transmitting information to the public through any means for the Board meetings in the summer to any means, I think it is a very important thing for the sake of transparency and communicating to the public.

The second item I do want to touch upon is in regards to this whole issue regarding Jefferson and as I had heard the conversation here, it made me think of my time on the Board and all the emails and all the communications that I received and I do believe I received some kind of PDF that states that about \$1.8 million of that \$5 million that was transferred from the Jefferson account to capital reserves was bond proceeds. What I'm really urging is that this Board and once I asked this question and got an answer of "oh all the bond proceeds were spent" but then I asked prove it. Didn't get an answer from them – the Business Administrator, Mr. Vieira and suddenly that conversation died down; I think it is very important for this Board to cautiously proceed moving forward in regards to if any of these funds were bond proceeds that were only served for the purpose of the Jefferson School project and if it can be used for tax relief, this is an opportunity to give every single taxpayer in this Town and I think it is three years' worth of school tax increases and I know that there are many people out there that are paying \$10, 11, 12,000 in property taxes. Their relief will probably be better. I think what this Board needs to consider is the taxpayer. It has to consider that there are people out there who are making just enough to get by and just \$300 would make a difference in their lives and I know that this Board has money because you just raised taxes by \$1.7 million in your last budget in addition to having your excess surplus increased by \$1.8 million. Not only that, at the last meeting, you put another \$825,000 back into your capital reserve and not only that for the past few months I have seen four new administrative positions – director level and manager level, that I assume with wages and benefits that would cost the District around maybe \$400-\$500,000. I am just giving an estimate.

The fact of the matter is have some consideration for the taxpayers and if there is a clear opportunity to provide tax relief, do it because what I hear here is kind of a lackadaisical response that you care about the taxpayers' money but not the taxpayers and that is the attitude we should not be having.

Mr. Nufrio stated I would like to make a comment not in response to Mr. Le but I think it is something that the public needs to be reminded. Mr. Monge alluded to it earlier. For two years we eliminated the million dollar bank cap that I saw for four consecutive years. I have been on the Board since 2011. Last year and the year before we said that is it no more. In a way yes I as a taxpayer got some tax relief because we didn't have to worry about that million dollar bank cap that was going on year after year. Does that offset any legitimate questions about this issue? No, but it is important for the public to remember that this Board said no more million dollar bank cap. We saved \$2 million in two years.

Mr. Monge stated just to piggy back off of that – obviously we have gone through the process of saving money and repurposing money for more programs. So instead of spending

money on non-competitive bids where we are using people for 15-20 years, we are able to save money on those things and be able to have summer programs. The other thing I mentioned earlier on is if you look at where Union Board of Ed is today as far as what the taxpayer pays, is actually below the average in the State of New Jersey. The other thing I mentioned is our schools are crumbling and we are doing major renovations to our schools. We have kids where there are busted out lights – walking down the hallway. I walked these schools and we talked about the ripped blinds because there is no money – broken windows. Our kids are supposed to be in those types of situations? We are not taking bank cap dollars that we could have taken and we are saying we are going to take the dollars that we do have and use them in the most appropriate manner to be able to do more with less and we still have to manage our budget going forward.

Dr. Francis stated in spite of all that we have given back to the kids. We improved our technology and we didn't layoff anybody.

Mr. Tatum stated I just want to address another issue too about the inclusion of new positions; which again we are far behind most progressive school districts. Every one of those positions have been done through attrition, it has been done through recycling of the same funds. As a Superintendent I have never come to this Board and asked you to go above and ask you to go to the voters and ask them for more money to run this District. I have always taken the money that we had and stayed within that limit. The Governor and the Legislator have mandated on how much money we can raise on the tax levy without going to the voters for a tax increase and we stay within that guideline.

The other thing is we talked about the appropriations of the dollars and the fact that I have been sitting here for the last 15 years, I have seen it both ways. I lived during the time where we lost \$9.4 million because we were sitting on taxpayers money in an account. I lived when we got reduced by \$6.4 million – a total \$15 million that we lost in this District that we never recovered. But despite that we are doing more with what we have to work with and then we are criticized for giving more to children. I just don't understand it.

Mr. Monge stated last point – the State has identified the Township of Union school district as one that we are not getting our fair share. We are part of that underfunded district.

Anne Margaret Shannon stated I wanted to thank you guys – I had two questions but you answered them both. However, now I just have to put in an applause to the Board because I'm a taxpayer and I'm not sure but I think I remember my tax bill being about 50-52% to the school and now we are down to 47%. I have been paying for 20 years but I just want to say thank you.

Mr. Nufrio stated one final comment and it is to explain my outburst to the public. I take umbrage to even having anyone to say that this Board may have done something illegal. If that is so, by all means and we need to rectify it but I certainly recall vividly when the Jefferson project was closed out to some extent because it was never fully closed until we insisted on having it closed out because that money was nestled very nicely only to be used for certain purpose. The question I raised several times during that time as a member of the Board is what do we do with the excess money and how much is it. I never got a straight answer. I was always

told no we don't have to give this back to any principle payment down or any bond repayment or giving it back. I said I would like some of that money back as a taxpayer. I am not going to mention the names because those people who understand that we were guided by certain individuals and that direction was pretty succinct. It was pretty direct and that is all I have to say about that.

Maureen Martin stated my son is in special services and completed his first year of pre-k program and he was approved to be bused to and from the daycare center and I was told that he would not be approved again for this coming school year. I wrote letters, I have been talking to people and I'm trying to find who would make the decision as far as something like this? Mr. Tatum stated me and I met with the Director of Transportation this morning on this issue because when you were writing emails I was away on vacation for a couple of days and I was reading them. I told her that I would have a decision by tomorrow morning and you will be so informed by tomorrow. Mrs. Martin stated good to know.

#### MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Moved by Mrs. Williams, seconded by Mr. Arminio, that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss the following subject matters without the presence of the public in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 10:4-2b.

- Pending or anticipated litigation, contract negotiation and matters falling under the attorney-client privilege.
- Matters involving employees and terms of their employment and contract.

The Board will disclose the discussion conducted during the executive session, with notice to the public, 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.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. McDowell stated thank you to the public and hope to see you next month. The Board will return to public session to take action.

The Board returned to public session at 10:22 p.m.

Mr. McDowell stated we will take action on a portion of P-1.

Moved by Mr. Arminio, seconded by Mr. Nufrio, that the Board put P-1 Richard D'Avanzo being transferred from Burnet Middle School to an elementary school location to be determined back on the table.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Mr. Arminio, seconded by Mr. Nufrio, that the Board transfer Richard D'Avanzo from Burnet Middle School to an elementary school location to be determined by the Superintendent.

DISCUSSION:

None

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the Board, it was moved by Mr. Arminio, seconded by Mrs. Regis-Darby, that the meeting be adjourned at 10:25 p.m. All present voting YES. MOTION CARRIED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

GREGORY E. BRENNAN  
BOARD SECRETARY