

TOWNSHIP OF UNION BOARD OF EDUCATION
WORKSESSION MINUTES
FEBRUARY 16, 2023 - 7:00 p.m.

NOTICE OF MEETING:

TO ALL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS:

The worksession meeting of the Board of Education of the Township of Union was held on Thursday, February 16, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Administration Building, 2369 Morris Avenue, Union, New Jersey pursuant to the notice sent to each member. Action was taken.

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

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Yocasta Brens-Watson, Ms. Dixiana Carbonell, Ms. Marissa McKenzie, Mrs. Nancy Minneci, Mr. John O’Shea, Mrs. Nellis Regis-Darby, Ms. Chastity Santana, Mrs. Kimberly Scott-Hayden, Mrs. Mary Lynn Williams

ABSENT AT ROLL CALL:

None

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Dr. Scott Taylor, Dr. Gretel Perez Mrs. Yolanda Koon

ALSO PRESENT:

Mr. Christopher Buggy, Esq.

Mr. O’Shea led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Mr. O’Shea read the district’s mission statement.

COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC ON RESOLUTIONS (agenda action items only):

None

Rich D’Avanzo stated he has a problem with F-27. Mr. O’Shea stated F-27 is being removed from the agenda.

Ann Margaret Shannon stated she has a problem with F-35; it is anti-union and asked if you reached out to anyone. Students can’t be in front of a computer. She stated she would maybe consider French 1.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes will be approved at next week's regular meeting.

Communications:

Communications are part of personnel and operations.

Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent will report at the next week's meeting.

Education/Student Discipline Committee Resolutions:

Ms. Carbonell presented the Education/Student Discipline Committee agenda.

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

E-1. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT OF HIB

Superintendent's Report of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) for the period January 18, 2023 to February 16, 2023, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes (*no vote required; for reporting purposes only*).

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

Affirm the Superintendent's determination of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) for the periods January 11, 2023 to January 17, 2023, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

DISCUSSION:

None

AYE: Mrs. Brens-Watson, Ms. Carbonell, Mrs. Minneci, Mr. O'Shea,

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Fiscal and Planning Committee Resolutions:

Mr. O'Shea presented the Fiscal and Planning Committee agenda. F-27 – Responsive Schools-Professional Development is being pulled from the agenda.

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following resolutions were moved by Mr. O'Shea, seconded by Mrs. Brens-Watson, for adoption:

F-7. APPROVE DISTRICTWIDE STUDENT FIELD TRIPS

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

F-15. APPROVE INSPIRED INSTRUCTION – PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Approve Inspired Instruction, LLC to coordinate professional development trainings for all staff members at Burnet and Kawameeh Middle Schools on February 17, 2023. The workshops will focus on Implementing Instructional Strategies to Fully Engage Students, Stressed Out: Helping Students Build Skills for School and Life and Improving Student-Teacher Rapport (at a cost of \$3,900.00 to be paid using Title II funds, account extension 8434).

F-25. APPROVE DENNIS MOROLDA – PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Approve Dennis Morolda, LLC to coordinate a half-day professional development training at Union High School for all staff members on February 17, 2023 which focuses on Community Building/Empowering Teacher Language (at a cost of \$1,500.00 to be paid using Title II funds; account extension 8434),

F-27. *Agenda item pulled at February 16, 2023 worksession (Responsive Schools-PD)*

F-35. APPROVE EDMENTUM – FRENCH CLASSES

Approve Edmentum (EdOptions Academy) to provide Union High School French 2, 3, 4 and 5 and AP French classes – an asynchronous model with teacher support from March 1, 2023 to June 20, 2023 (at a cost of \$45,201.00); additional in-district teacher coverage is also needed (at a cost of \$13,104.00) for a total cost of \$58,314.00. (*Vote failed*)

DISCUSSION:

Ms. Santana asked if the district could form relationships with Kean University – if they have the same programs as Rutgers. Dr. Taylor stated they are developing a relationship with Kean; however, they do not have these programs.

Ms. McKenzie stated with respect to F-35 – what did the district do? Dr. Taylor stated it was in the Star Ledger, he reached out to Kean and even the former French teacher.

Mrs. Minneci asked what will happen come September? Dr. Taylor stated this is a stop gap; it is only for this year. Ms. Carbonell asked how many students would be impacted? Dr. Taylor stated 136 students.

AYE: Mrs. Brens-Watson, Ms. Carbonell, Mrs. Minneci, Mr. O’Shea,

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

NAY: F-35 – Mrs. Brens-Watson, Mrs. Regis-Darby, Ms. Santana, Mrs. Scott-Hayden, Mrs. Williams

ABSTAIN: None

F-7, F-15, F-25

F-35

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION FAILED

Operations Committee Resolutions:

Ms. Santana presented the Operations Committee agenda.

Ms. Santana presented the following discussion items:

1. REQUEST FROM TOWNSHIP OF UNION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE - Letter from Township of Union Chamber of Commerce requesting the use of the Union High School facility site for the Chamber's 12th Annual Mayor's day 5K Run on Sunday, September 24, 2023.
2. REQUEST FROM ROTARY CLUB - Letter from Rotary Club of Union requesting the use of Union High School classrooms and athletic fields on May 23, 2023 for Family Fitness Festival.
3. REQUEST FROM TOWNSHIP OF UNION POLICE DEPARTMENT - Request from the Township of Union Police Department to use the main gymnasium at Union High School for a fundraising basketball game on March 31, 2023 from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

DISCUSSION:

Mrs. Minneci asked that #2 and #3 to provide their own security. Ms. Santana asked that #1, #2 and #3 be added to the regular meeting for vote.

Personnel Committee Resolutions:

Mrs. Scott-Hayden presented the Personnel Committee agenda.

DISCUSSION:

None

Policy Committee:

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and the Policy Committee, Mrs. Williams presented the following policies for the Board's consideration for **FIRST READING**:

POL-1 POLICY 0164 – CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Approve Policy 0164- Conduct of Business, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

POL-2 POLICY 5512 – HARRASSMENT INTIMIDATION AND BULLYING

Approve Policy 5512 – Harassment Intimidation and Bullying, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

POL-3 POLICY 7510 – USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

Approve Policy 7510 – Use of School Facilities, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

POL-4.POLICY 1648.11 – ABOLISHED

Abolish Policy 1648.11 – the Road Forward COVID-19 – Health and Safety (M).

POL-5.POLICY 1648.13 – ABOLISHED

Abolish Policy 1648.13 – School Employee Vaccination Requirements (M).

POL-6.POLICY 0152 – BOARD OFFICERS

Approve Policy 0152 – Board Officers, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

POL-7.POLICY 0161 – CALL, ADJOURNMENT AND CANCELLATIONS

Approve Policy 0161 – Call, Adjournment and Cancellations, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

POL-8.POLICY 0162 - NOTICE OF BOARD MEETINGS

Approve Policy 0162 – Notice of Board Meetings, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

POL-9.POLICY 2423 – BILINGUAL AND ESL EDUCATION (M)

Approve Policy 2423 – Bilingual and ESL Education, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

POL-10. REGULATION 2423 – BILINGUAL AND ESL EDUCATION (M)

Approve Regulation 2423 – Bilingual and ESL Education, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

POL-11. Agenda item tabled until a future Board meeting (Policy 5200 – Attendance (M))

POL-12. Agenda item tabled until a future Board meeting (Regulation 5200 – Attendance (M))

POL-13. POLICY 8140 – STUDENT ENROLLMENTS (M)

Approve Policy 8140 – Student Enrollments, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

POL-14. REGULATION 8140 – ENROLLMENT ACCOUNTING (M)

Approve Regulation 8140 – Enrollment Accounting, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

POL-15. POLICY 8330 - STUDENT RECORDS (M)

Approve Policy 8330 – Student Records, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

POL-16. REGULATION 8330 – STUDENT RECORDS (M)

Approve Regulation 8330 – Student Records, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

POL-17. REGULATION 8420.2 – BOMB THREATS (M)

Approve Regulation 8420.2 – Bomb Threats, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

POL-18. REGULATION 8420.7 – LOCKDOWN PROCEDURES (M)

Approve Regulation 8420.7 – Lockdown Procedures, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

POL-19. REGULATION 8420.10 – ACTIVE SHOOTER (M)

Approve Regulation 8420.10 – Active Shooter, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

DISCUSSION:

There were discussions regarding Policy 7510 – Use of School Facilities – stating since the field will be redone, it was asked that there be a way to limit it's use to only students, that the field be open only during certain hours, that signs be posted and it be locked after hours.

Mrs. Williams stated Policy and Regulation 5200 – Attendance – “optional days” is very vague and subjective. Ms. McKenzie stated that let's pull these policies for a future Board meeting and have it go back to the Policy Committee for further review.

Residency Committee Resolutions:

Mrs. Minneci presented the Residency Committee agenda.

Approval of Bills:

Bills will be paid at next week's meeting.

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

Ms. McKenzie asked for a moment of silence for the two students from other districts in New Jersey who lost their lives – Adriana Kuch and Elijah Jordan Brown-Garcia.

Mrs. Regis-Darby asked that the time of graduation be changed to either 8 a.m. or 6 p.m. because of the heat. Dr. Taylor stated he would look into that.

Board members asked about the budget and Dr. Taylor informed the Board we are looking at a double-digit shortfall and that the Administration is diligently working on it; he had updated Mr. O'Shea on Thursday. The preliminary budget will be given to the Finance Committee on February 27th. Mrs. Koon stated because the budget is due to the County on March 20th, we will need to move the March meetings to March 7th and March 14th. She also stated February 28th is the Governor's announcement.

Mrs. Brens-Watson asked if she could donate whatever is left in her payschool account and she was told she could and she needed to send an email to Mrs. Koon.

Comments from the Public:

Richard D'Avanzo stated the budget – an email was sent to security about no overtime and then it was retracted. ESSER funds can be used for salary. He is not supportive of the November break because there will be less attendance at the NJEA convention if teachers have the whole week off. Also, the district buildings are old so it is very hot in June.

Kathleen Brunsmeyers asked if you could compare the water utility bills for each building because of broken faucets in some buildings. Elijah, the young football player, his coaches were not trained in CPR. She also stated there should be locks on the field.

Ann Margaret Shannon stated it will be a brand new field at the high school – it should be locked up. She also stated that the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity-Young Men of Distinction Conference was February 11th and it was awesome and it was followed by dinner at celebration at Galloping Hill Golf Course. Next is the stock market event.

Dr. Guy Francis stated he agrees about the field – it should be locked up. The Town should supply a rec center.

MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Moved by Mrs. Minneci, seconded by Mrs. Williams, that the Board go into Executive Session at 8:16 p.m. to discuss the following subject matters without the presence of the public in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b: personnel, litigation update.

Please take notice that minutes will be taken of the discussion conducted during the executive session and the Board will disclose the minutes of the executive session when the disclosure will not result in unwarranted invasion of individual privacy or prejudice to the best interests of the Board of Education and provided that such disclosure does not violate federal, state or local statutes and does not fall within the attorney/client privilege.

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

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

The Board returned to public session at 9:22 p.m.

Dr. Taylor stated that E-5 2023-2024 school calendar will be tabled to the March agenda.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the Board in public session it was moved by Mrs. Brens-Watson, seconded by Ms. Santana, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

All present voting YES

MOTION CARRIED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Yolanda Koon

YOLANDA KOON
BOARD SECRETARY

