

NOTICE OF MEETING:

A special meeting of the Board of Education of the Township of Union will be held on Friday, May 29, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. at James Caufield Administration Building, 2369 Morris Avenue, Union, New Jersey 07083, to discuss planning for Hamilton School.

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PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:

Mr. David Arminio, Mr. Richard Galante, Ms. Lois Jackson (by phone), Mr. Ron McDowell, Mr. Vito Nufrio, Mr. Angel Salcedo

ABSENT AT ROLL CALL:

Dr. Guy Francis, Mr. Thomas Layden, Ms. Nancy Zuena

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Mr. James Damato, Dr. Noreen Lishak, Mr. Gregory Tatum, Mr. Manuel Vieira, Mr. Thomas Wiggins

Mr. Arminio called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Nufrio led the board and audience members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dr. Francis arrived at meeting.

Mr. Damato read the statement required under the "Open Public Meetings Act", a copy of which is on file in the office of the Board Secretary.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS:

Mr. Arminio stated that Mr. Damato said that we don't need the comments from the public at the end of the meeting. Comments from the public on the resolutions? None

FISCAL AND PLANNING COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS:

Moved by Mr. Salcedo, seconded by Mr. Galante that the following resolution be adopted:

F-1. APPROVE UNION HIGH SCHOOL-PERFORMING ARTS GROUP

That the Board approve the Union High School – Performing Arts Group rehearsal and performance at the Paper Mill Playhouse Rising Star Awards, in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

Mr. Arminio stated that there is no cost to the Board. The trip was approved last meeting but the bus request was not submitted. This is just for the bus. Any questions and/or comments? Mr. McDowell asked who is paying for it? Mr. Vieira stated that Villani is paying for the bus. Mr. Tatum stated that Mr. Rego said that they were going to compensate us in some form because the schedule mix-up from last time.

Mrs. Zuena arrived at meeting.

AYES: Dr. Francis, Mr. Galante, Ms. Jackson, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Nufrio, Mr. Salcedo,  
Mrs. Zuena, Mr. Arminio

NAYES: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

At 7:40 p.m. the call with Ms. Jackson disconnected.

#### OPERATIONS COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Arminio stated that we are going to focus just on O-1 approval of the plan. We will only discuss the pros and cons of this plan. We will have to, at next meeting, have a discussion if we want to talk about other uses if it doesn't pass tonight, we will discuss other possibilities at June's meeting and go from there. I think it is fortuitist that we had the meeting tonight, because F-1 – I don't know how they would have gotten the approval if we weren't here to approve it. What we are going to do is start with the administration and if they have something to say – say it and then the Board members will have a turn to speak. We will go around the room and each person will have his or her say and then we will vote. If anyone has any objection to that we will keep it organized and to the point. We will start with Tom – with any numbers or facts, figures. I do have to start by saying that yesterday we were at Hamilton and walked around and got an idea and guess Dr. Lishak and Mr. Tatum will say what their picture of the Hamilton – what they see happening there.

Mr. Wiggins stated that I made a few adjustments to this after speaking with Manny – my numbers were a little bit lower as to the amount of money we have for next year. The cost to install data lines and partitions – I'm estimating about \$28,000. We have a P.A. system there – I question whether we need a P.A. system there – we don't have a P.A. system here – everybody will have a phone on their desk – they can interact with everybody else with. We will need a custodian there. When those boilers are running during the winter, we have to have a licensed Black Seal person there – that cost is about \$75,000 – salary and benefits. We might be able to utilize him a little bit – during the summer or spring months in other buildings or outside on the grounds. I really foresee a few hours a day, cleaning, waxing the building – but we have to have him there during the winter – it's the law. This year - \$22,460 for required maintenance and \$5,100 for required maintenance supplies – which we budgeted for this year. Out of that money we did spend \$14,000 for required maintenance – that was upkeep for the boiler. By law, we have to spend at least \$10,104 on that building every year to keep it up – that is required by the State. We have to spend that anyway – this year we spent \$14,000 in required maintenance and \$1,100 for supplies for that building. We still have a little bit of money left over for this year – if we wanted to utilize that for this project. Next year, combined required maintenance and maintenance supplies is actually \$34,500. The first year of costs out-of-pocket would be

\$103,000 for the custodian and upfront costs to install the data lines and electricity – outlets for individual people and partitions. I don't think that the energy costs will be that much out of line – I think the cost for paper towels and soap and wax will be a little bit higher, but not that much higher because it is the same occupant load. We will be saving in all the buildings that we pull those people out of. A phone, buzzard for the door, we already have one there – I don't know whether we need to install another one on another door – that would be another \$5,000-\$6,000 if we had to. There is one there now – right on the front door – we have been using it all these years and I don't know why we shouldn't continue to utilize it.

Mrs. Zuena asked are the boilers used when it is not occupied – the boilers are on anyhow – aren't they? Mr. Wiggins stated correct. Mrs. Zuena stated so we have a custodian there already? Mr. Wiggins stated no. Mrs. Zuena stated so if the boilers are on....Mr. Wiggins stated if the building is not occupied, we don't need one. The minute you put one person in the building is when you need to have somebody there protecting those people. Mrs. Zuena stated that the boilers can run without a custodian as long as there are no people in the building. Mr. Wiggins stated correct. We usually do two building checks a day during the winter – one building check during the summer – if it is unoccupied.

Mr. Damato stated that it looks like Ms. Jackson hung up and tried to call back and call failed.

Dr. Francis asked can a custodian be a lateral move – from an existing place – unless all custodians are being used in full capacity, or move a custodian from another location and put him there – it's no new money being spent. We may find that one school may have one more custodian than they really need. Can we put him there and take one from a different location. Put him there – and we are not spending \$75,000 – we are already paying him. Mr. Wiggins stated that right now we are strap thin in all of the schools. The grammar schools all have four custodians – you have to have two during the day and two at night for safety reasons – especially at night and especially during the winter - the least number that we can afford. We have been going down in numbers since I have been here. We have eliminated the third shift at the high school which eliminated a couple of custodians there. As per our square footage, we are below the State requirement. We have less custodians – we should have one or two more custodians as per their regulations. I really can't see that. I know at Hannah Caldwell, we added square footage to that building – we never increased their custodial staff. The high school is strapped thin and so is Burnet. The only person that we have available right now is Barry Loessel – is a custodian, he is my assistant, that would be the only person we could fudge with.

Mr. Damato stated that we anticipated that the use of the building would be that the second floor would be entirely vacant and no one would be using the second floor. The first floor would be the offices for all of the administrators that are proposed to be going over there and the basement – the Union Police Department asked if they could remain in the building. They would like to use the gym for self-defense training and they would like to use the first floor for active shooter drills – so without getting into too much detail – they want to continue to use that and they are very grateful to the Board of Education for extending them the courtesy of using Hamilton School for the last few months to conduct their drills. They have conducted drills with County, State HazMat – SWAT teams from every location, even Kean University – it

has really worked out well for everyone. If they would be able to continue to use the basement level that would be fine. There is no reason for anyone to go to the basement level other than the custodian because the only thing down there is the boiler room. We would not be using any of the other rooms – all of the rooms on the first floor are pretty nice rooms and well lit. The floors are all intact and air conditioned. If we are going to use the rooms on the second floor, it would be a good deal more work that needs to get done before we would be able to use those rooms the way we are using the first floor rooms. That was what was anticipated.

Mr. McDowell asked does that include the gym. Mr. Damato stated the gym and the cafeteria. Mr. Wiggins stated that the gym is also the auditorium.

Mr. Nufrio stated maybe I missed the point of the \$75,000. Mr. Wiggins stated that is salary and benefits. Mr. Nufrio stated you are going to be putting Barry over there. Mr. Wiggins stated I didn't say that, I said that he is the only person floating right now – he is my assistant. We don't have a custodian that we can take out of a building and put there. Mr. Nufrio asked why will it be \$75,000? Do you intend on hiring someone? Mr. Damato stated we would have to hire someone. Mr. Nufrio stated \$75,000 is certainly not the starting salary for a custodian. Mr. Vieira stated \$40,000. Mr. Wiggins stated salary plus benefits. Mr. Vieira stated with all the benefits it could be \$75,000. Mr. Tatum stated that we have been starting them at \$40,000.

Mr. Galante stated in those figures I didn't hear anything about clean-up in the building or anything with the bathrooms – we discussed that last time. Mr. Wiggins stated that we would have to do a full clean-up, it really hasn't been taken care of in the past year. I will get my guys over there to clean. Mr. Galante asked about mold. Mr. Wiggins stated I don't think we have a mold problem there. Mr. Galante stated there is a story going around that there is mold. Are you sure? Mrs. Zuena stated that the kids were there just recently. Mr. Wiggins stated and the police have been in there. Mr. Galante asked what about the bathrooms? Mr. Wiggins stated that we did a tour the other day and in that particular floor there are three small bathrooms – one in the kindergarten room, one off the nurses, one in the main office then there are a full assignment of bathrooms on the second floor – a men's room, a ladies' room and even an additional faculty room – but they are on the second floor. Mr. Galante stated but the second floor is going to be vacant. Mr. Wiggins stated it is at the top of the steps are where they are. Mr. Galante stated I don't know if that is the best of situations.

Dr. Francis stated that Hamilton was used for fifth grade transition. How did they manage – were there any complaints? Mr. Tatum stated that we occupied that building with a 325 students, as well as at least 20 faculty members – for two years we didn't have any real issues. The building has sat vacant for a year now. As far as I know there were no real complaints or issues even from staff and even the teacher's association – we didn't get any grievances on that building at all during those two years. In fact I don't think we even got any parent complaints.

Mr. Vieira stated pretty much what Tom said about the money – the building is 35,000 square feet, our utilities run about \$2.00 per square foot – whether it is vacant or occupied, we are paying close to \$60,000-\$70,000 in utilities – which is our gas, electric, water. Mr. Wiggins stated that we just got a \$13,000 rebate on electric. Not a rebate – but they were estimating our

bills and not reading the meter. Mr. Vieira stated that it has been vacant so they must have been estimating based on when it was occupied.

Mr. Galante asked if there were any security figures. Mr. Wiggins stated no, there are no security figures nor are there figures for cameras – I did not estimate any of that. Mr. Tatum stated that you mentioned that you have to have a person there who has a Black Seal License obviously – does not the person have to be a regular employee, could it be a substitute, could it be a couple of people that are retired and we call back – doing half days or something like that where we don't have to pay benefits. Mr. Wiggins stated it could be – we just have to have someone in that building when people are in that building – it would not matter whether he was a permanent employee or not. We do have substitutes that do have Black Seals and during the summer, spring and fall – we don't have to have somebody there all the time and I was thinking that if we do hire someone, we can utilize that person for other things during the spring, summer and fall. Mr. Tatum stated what can we do – I heard you say they could work part time. If we do part-time, two part-time people with no benefits, we could save \$20,000-\$25,000 right there.

Dr. Lishak stated that the cost for the cameras, if we just did the outside – no cameras on the inside, is between \$33,000-\$35,000. If we bring some cameras inside, not the entire building, just the area where the staff would be, it would run about \$50,000 total. That is for around the outside of the building and then on the first floor. The only problem with that is that my budget was built prior to this discussion. If I had to take the money from there, I don't have any other money to put into security. We have had some outside cameras vandalized and stolen and our deductible is so high, I have to keep replacing them. Each camera is \$2,500 for each claim – so if you smash or steal a camera on Monday and we put in the claim for \$2,500, it doesn't count for the one that happens next Saturday – they are all separate claims. The only thing that I noticed when we walked around the building was the toilets – I personally have an issue – not the amount of toilets there are – but you are telling me that a toilet is about \$200 – we would have to replace some of those toilets. As far as the area we looked at, there is more than enough room to accommodate all of the people that would have to move there and a couple more, if need be. By moving the special services and supervisors out of where they are now, in Hannah we would gain one classroom, Burnet we wouldn't gain anything right now – because we have to do all the infrastructure work. At the high school, if we are able to, and Tom is working on the numbers, we would gain a room that is utilized now as office space – and moving the walls that would become another lab that we are in desperate need of. Because of PARCC, we all know what is happening with the common core – so I don't know what is happening with PARCC, it looks like now we either need that for either a keyboarding class or something that we had to displace during PARCC – we would gain back two of the rooms that are now used by CST for office space and one used by another supervisor, depending on if we are able to use those as small group instruction or small classroom. We have a couple of resource rooms that have a small number of students that they can move into those classrooms will gain a second classroom – so possibly two smaller classrooms at the high school and where the supervisors are now located would be utilized by the CST that we are displacing from downstairs to upstairs. If all works well, we don't have the corner number yet, correct? The two small classrooms – one on top of the other – back of the high school – Maureen Gilfoyle's in one and CST is in the other...Mr. Wiggins stated CST is in the other room. Dr. Lishak stated so if we can utilize those rooms with even six students, we actually have some small resource classes that have six in them

– if we can move those into one of those two rooms, for everyone I move in, I'm gaining a classroom – so definitely I'm gaining one full classroom that will be a lab and I'm going to gain either a speech room or something in one of those offices. If that office is large enough to be small resource room of six students, I can gain as many as two classrooms. Mr. Arminio stated this is just at the high school. Dr. Lishak stated and CST would move too and one complete classroom at Hannah.

Mr. Tatum stated let's talk about Hannah for a minute. Mr. Galante stated you are talking about one room upstairs where the supervisors are that is going to be a lab and the child study team? Dr. Lishak stated no – downstairs on the first floor, there is room right now which is utilized by CST – it's a full classroom that they divided up with small offices. If we take all of that out – it's just moveable walls – just take that out, that goes back to being a full classroom which can become a lab – so we gain that room. Upstairs, in the corner, one of the supervisor's room upstairs and right underneath it is the CST room that we are using as office space – Tom is going to run the numbers because legally we have to have enough space to put the students in there. If we can fit six students in that space – we have two classrooms that I know of that during course of the day is actually instructing students with only six because it is only a small resource. If I can use either one of those two rooms, I will gain back another full classroom. Mr. Galante asked isn't the child study team down in the vicinity of where the BD kids are? Dr. Lishak stated that they are not far from them. Mr. Galante stated Mr. Kloc is not thrilled with the idea of moving the child study team out of that area. Dr. Lishak stated he is also not happy with that we don't have any place to put the labs, not having the library – so it needs to be the lesser of two evils. I'm getting back instructional space that I really do need in the building and if that is the case, to be honest with you, even if it works out with the other two rooms which Tom will be able to figure that out shortly, gaining back even one of those rooms that is now an entire classroom with six students, gets me an entire classroom back.

Mr. Tatum stated even around the district, when we talk about some of the conditions of the schools, which we mentioned Hannah Caldwell a moment ago, bringing back some of the programs that you have heard me say in previous meetings, certainly has an impact on the number of classrooms that are available and class size in the buildings. I am going to take Hannah Caldwell as an example – when we displaced the art teacher in that building this year, which I was not too thrilled about, we brought three students into a full size classroom, displaced a professional that now has to service – she has the most class size of any art teacher in the elementary school in the district and she also covers two buildings – so she is on the clock right now and it is unfortunate that we brought four or five students and we displaced a person who services 600 students – that is one point, but because it is mandated, they have so much space or whatever the case may be, we had to do that. Now if we get this classroom back, we can put the art program back into a classroom where it really belongs. Theoretically, we have done that in a couple of buildings and we also are getting a lot of ADA requests and 504 for teachers who are hurting their backs and this and that and the other thing and some of those are also costly that we are not even talking about – you start analyzing those figures and the costs are even greater. Mr. Galante stated you are talking about the same room where the supervisors are currently occupied – you can solve that problem by putting them where the other supervisors are now and that would cost nothing. Mr. Tatum stated that one thing that I take issue with, I don't want my elementary supervisors in the high school – that is not the place for them, they belong with

elementary staff. The time that they are going to spend having to go in and out and navigate their ways in those buildings is time wasted. They belong in an environment where they are with children. I want to be fair about this. If I have the high school supervisors in the high school, why can't the elementary people be with elementary students. I think we are being unfair to even suggest that. Mr. Galante asked realistically aren't they in and out of six different buildings everyday anyway? Mr. Tatum stated yes but the home base, in my opinion, if they are going to be in a location where other grade levels are – I think we are leveling the playing field – I think we have to be fair. I think it is not right to take them and put them in there – it would be no different if I took the high school supervisors and put them in the elementary school – would that be right? I think it would be inappropriate. Mr. Galante stated that you are taking secondary supervisors out of the secondary building and putting them in an office building and every time a teacher needs to get something from a supervisor, they have to make an appointment to leave the building – that is the same problem. Mr. Arminio stated there are two other schools that they service also. Mr. Galante stated I understand that – but they have office space in that building. There will not be office space for them in this building. Mr. Tatum stated it is the same argument we made for us with district level employees – we are in one location and we have to go and service all the buildings and our biggest problems we have is that we are not getting out to those schools to service them because of all the other things that are going on in the District. It is a semantical game – but I have to say as the current Superintendent, I like to see things organized in certain manner and I like to see either (a) we put everybody together so for continuity purposes and meeting purposes have them in one location or (b) we keep it as two different districts – an elementary and a secondary and they remain in two separate locations and then that accommodates everybody if we do that.

Dr. Lishak stated ideally, Greg and I wish we were in the same building with the supervisors, we wish it was an administration building – unfortunately that is not the case. Something came up today that we discussed was there are two spaces in the middle schools where the supervisors have what they consider office space – with the move of the bank, they will have the office space in the high school. That is going to be the office space that they can use now. Mr. Galante asked if it is enough for all of them? More than one person can meet at one time because not everybody has the same schedule. Dr. Lishak stated it is large enough where it could have a couple of different desks in it and a partition – it was a bank with office space – that was just discussed earlier today that it was a possibility because as we were talking about it, if we had this conversation on Tuesday we would have been struggling to find a place but with movement of the bank, we wouldn't use that space for anything else other than office space where the supervisors could meet and go over whatever they need to do with their teachers.

Mr. Tatum stated there is one other point that needs to be made here regarding supervisors, our principals are based in an individual school and we come to know where they are – their comings and goings – having supervisors all over the place – unfortunately and not everyone does this – but there are some people that take advantage of being spread all of the place and they are not in places that they belong and there is no accountability for where they are. Mr. Galante stated they are not the only ones in the district. Mr. Tatum stated you are right there are probably other people in the District that are doing that – but we are trying to correct things and make them better in this District and you know, we have to be the examples, you have

to start somewhere. It is hard for us to come down on teachers who are sneaking out the backdoor if we can't find their supervisors and we have had situations like that unfortunately. It is not everyone, there are some people that are so diligent that you can trust them to do whatever is that you expect them to do they are doing it – while the other people are not. Mr. Salcedo asked who do the supervisors report to? Mr. Tatum stated elementary reports to me. Dr. Lishak stated and secondary reports to me.

Mr. Nufrio stated that David and I visited the high school about a week or so ago and we were made privy to the bank leaving. Can that space be used perhaps, it is always about the kids, the staff is of course have their rights, but it should always be about the kids, how we can improve the educational setting for them. This is why we do what we do. Can that space be possibly be used for another lab? Dr. Lishak stated that it is much too small for a lab it would not be allowed. I don't know what is behind door number one in the bank – it lines up right underneath what was in my office – I think there are some pipes that are running through there so it would be something for use by the bank or office space. Mr. Nufrio stated even at Burnet when we saw the space, Ray Salvatore indicated, that one area with the low ceiling - that he could make that a computer lab. Dr. Lishak stated he was here today – so he talked about a couple of different things. Mr. Nufrio stated is that similar – I have not seen that space at the high school – is that somewhat similar to Burnet? Dr. Lishak stated no, the space that we want to make a lab, is that what you are talking about – the one we are envisioning as a lab? Mr. Nufrio stated at Burnet, part of the space which is currently occupied by special services, there is a low ceiling like that. Dr. Lishak stated it's the balcony above it – in special services at Burnet. Mr. Nufrio stated that space could be used. Mr. Wiggins stated I don't believe that space is big enough. Mr. Nufrio stated I looked at it - it would have to be measured. Basically, if it is not classified as a classroom, and you classify it as a lab, it could be adaptable, possibly, that space at the high school can also be used for that purpose.

Mrs. Zuena asked what was the bank before it was a bank? Mr. Galante stated that the bank has been there since the 80's. Dr. Lishak stated that it is connected to the nurse's office so they probably have divided it up into two different spaces since then. I can't answer that question for you because if you are asking me can we ever convert the bank space to a lab – it is too small. It is not that it is too low – it is too small for anything like that. If you are in the library and as you are walking out on the right hand side and there is a room that is in glass and that's a lab – take that and cut it into thirds. Mr. Nufrio stated more like a meeting spot. Dr. Lishak stated that it really was just a counter at the bank. Mr. Nufrio stated it could be for a psychologist or for the child study team. Dr. Lishak stated or in this case it could be used for the supervisors when they are not in the building and they can come in and meet with their teachers. It would be an office space for them.

Mr. Arminio stated that we will go around and each board member can have a say and I will start. Parking is one aspect that has not been brought up but you are going to gain spots at Burnet with them leaving. At the high school you will get a few spots with the supervisors leaving, but not many. Dr. Lishak stated that the supervisors while they are there we leave theirs the same – them moving will not get any back – because they need their spots. Mr. Arminio stated but the Burnet – will get some. When I was there the other day, the space of the rooms are unbelievable and I know that Noreen doesn't like the bathrooms, but I didn't see anything wrong



with it – just a good cleaning. Dr. Lishak stated that the toilets need to be replaced. Mr. Arminio stated I think that the elementary supervisors working with the secondary supervisors will be able to talk more especially with Christie dropping out of the Common Core Standards would I think necessitate a change in the curriculum, especially the crossover from elementary to secondary and with them being together it could only make things a little easier for primary and secondary supervisors to work together. As far as security, up here there is no special security – so they don't need special security for that place. The door will be locked just like it is at the high school – you get a key. The stairs are less stairs going up to the first floor of Hamilton then it is going up to the second floor to the supervisors at the high school. The actual walking is no more, the parking is abundant at Hamilton on the side of the building – so that won't be any problems whatsoever. I think it is a good deal for everybody, our district and for the kids to get more classes, more space and we are utilizing a building that has been vacant for two years. I think that is the right thing to do.

Mr. McDowell stated I wanted to find out if there are any other issues that we can solve by using that second floor in Hamilton. I know Burnet is crowded but I don't know how that would cure that problem – but is there any other things we can use that second floor for? Dr. Francis stated I was thinking the same thing – is there anything in the elementary schools that are not really for teaching the students – are there any classrooms that are being assigned for something else that could technically be moved there to free up classrooms. Mr. Arminio stated that is certainly something for our planning session in August to brainstorm and get the experts to come up with ideas. If Kim were here, she might be able to say they can bring a class there to a second floor. Mr. McDowell stated especially now that we have the time to sit down and plan this. It would be helpful to take everything into consideration. Can we use that second floor for something that would relieve some of the problems in the schools. This is one of things I would like to think about.

Mr. Tatum stated that Noreen made a point that would require additional staffing, should we do that? However, I think that the answer to the questions for tonight is when we first undertook this whole idea of utilizing Hamilton as an office space, we were suppose to phase in – because we did discuss having some type of education program as well as office space in that building and I thought that I recall Kim saying one time, that she would like to use the first floor and have the second floor as the office space – but we elected for now to use it for office space and then continue with the discussion about future use of the second floor. Mr. Arminio stated just bringing some out of the district people in – each one could be up to \$100,000. Mr. McDowell stated when I was in Jersey City, we had zero tolerance school – where we had troublemakers in school, they went to completely different schools and I don't know if you would like to consider but it is an idea – I don't know if we have those kinds of problems – but maybe we do – but I would guess that we do. The whole second floor that may be used. Mr. Arminio stated so you want to look for uses of the second floor. Mr. McDowell stated that we should give this whole plan a lot of thought. Mrs. Zuena stated I don't have an issue with all of them moving to one location – my issue was and I spoke out at the last meeting was the timeline – I felt like everything is being rushed and like a lot of things, we put band-aids on what I think needs to be done properly. I think that the bathrooms need to be in-line, I think that data needs to be online, everything needs to be done properly. If we are not in a rush to get them there because we are not going to work on the school, I think we need to work on a timeline on how it is going

to happen. I don't think it is a problem of them going there – I think it is a great idea of utilizing the building. I was more concerned on the timeline of getting them there because you wanted them there by June but if the building is not prepared, then there is no reason why they have to be there by June – maybe they need to be there by September so we can utilize Hannah Caldwell or we can utilize the spacing there but I don't think they need to be there by June because I don't think that we will do it properly then – I think we will cut corners and I think it would be too much of a rush. That is what I think. Mr. Wiggins stated I don't think we can do it by June. Mrs. Zuena stated that is what I think. Originally, the timeline was said that they want them to be there by June – instead of giving it a specific date in June – give it a August 15<sup>th</sup> date or whatever and get everything done, the wireless, the data, the phone lines, everything needs to be done properly because like we know – and I'm not putting fingers on anybody – instead of bandaiding things, let's do it properly, put the money where it needs to go one time and then it is done. Instead of rushing everything and then this is not right that's not right. I don't think it is a rush to get them there. I think that is great that they all get there – but let's get them there on a timely manner where everything is done properly.

Mr. Tatum stated Tom didn't we start some phase in as far as the data and all that stuff. I thought that was in progress. Mr. Wiggins stated Donna Restivo is working on trying to get the lines back into the building – that is as far as we have gotten. Mrs. Zuena stated everything was ripped out when they took stuff out for PARCC. Mr. Nufrio stated Nancy if you remember the Planning Session...Mrs. Zuena stated I missed that part of it. Mr. Nufrio stated June was not the target date – it was September. Mrs. Zuena stated I missed that part and I know that was what was decided on but I didn't have a timeline. Mr. Nufrio stated we took into account that we may run into obstacles. Dr. Francis stated in the planning session, I thought that was something that we all agreed upon but I thought it was a consensus on what we were going to do and that we would move the supervisors out of there and special services into that building so we could free up some classrooms eventually. We did talk about Burnet and adding classrooms at a cost of \$800,000. Mr. Nufrio stated that was just a projected number. Dr. Francis stated I was never a big fan of this but I think that this was a temporary thing to do because we are still paying for the building and we figured this would be something we could use in this fashion and then move on and deciding what the long-term goal was. This was a short term goal. For me, I would rather see the school used for some kind of merit or a magnet type thing if you could use it for that but I knew that it was going to cost more money to use it as a school. That being said, I thought we were still on to the point to just moving people out in terms of freeing up some more classrooms and making a little more effective for the purposes that the administration would use.

Mr. Salcedo stated I like the idea of freeing up classrooms that is important and what Vito said that you have to always keep the kids in the front of your mind. But I like what Nancy said and as I mentioned before with the band-aids – I just think – like Ronnie mentioned, why don't we do something with that second floor. I think this is part of the plan but I legitimately think that is not just about hey I know we have that school there – but before we make these major moves, let's have the second part of this plan in place because I think we have to because once we make moves, we are going to have four big rooms available. Mr. Arminio stated to please stay on the pros and the cons if you can. Mr. Salcedo stated so I gave you my pros and my cons and I think it is half measure.

Mr. Galante stated I have some concerns with the bathrooms, as Noreen does. The bathroom I know in the middle is a kindergarten bathroom in the middle of the floor. The bathrooms at the end are in somebody's office – whether they are usable by people all the time or not is questionable. You going to have bathrooms upstairs, but I'm hearing we don't need security upstairs. I don't know about you but I don't want my wife going to a bathroom upstairs without a camera up there to keep an eye on when nobody is up there. Outside/inside the building, we do need security. There are stories going around that there is mold – Tom, I'm not picking a fight with you I know you know what you are doing – but I do want to know if there is mold I want it cleaned right. Now I don't know if anybody else here knows this but around the corner from there, you have a develop going up by Red Devil with 225 units. On the other end of town you got another development going up with about 430 units – those are going to get the redistricting problems in town. If we are going to move everybody into this building and then in four years from now tell them we got to get them out because we need more class space because there is more people living in town, I think we need to look into that. Nobody has brought that up. Mr. Arminio stated yes we did. Mr. Galante stated I didn't hear about it, when was it brought up? Mr. Arminio stated our last meeting. Mr. Galante stated about talking about those apartments? No it wasn't. Mr. Arminio stated we spoke about the numbers – did we not? Mr. Galante stated back when the development of Hickory Manor went up – we had to redistrict and people had to be moved around – we are already at maximum space. I don't know if it makes sense to put the money into the building and then 2-3-4 years from now we have to take the people out of there because we need to use it as a school. I think we need to know about that before we do it. That's my opinion.

Mr. Nufrio stated when we had the planning session, I strongly urged the Board to look at the three options that Mr. Damato had proposed and I began with the one that was going to be the most cost efficient; the one that was going to produce the best results; the one that was going to reflect eventually positively impacting the students. As far as I'm concerned I still stand by this. I believe all the logistical possible road blocks can be handled – they can be handled professionally and projected date of September, it may go into October possibly, the thing is that if we keep putting it off, we can be like the movie "My Cousin Vinnie" – we can be in the mud in Alabama where you keep spinning the wheels and you go nowhere. We can either spin the wheels and go nowhere or we take part of your suggestion Ron, which make the second part – meaning what else can we use upstairs for – and I'm sure we can come up with some great ideas, because between special ed, between the high school situation, between middle school situations, we could possibly find some adaptability – some adaptable situation for the kids to benefit from that space. Whether or not we move people today or next year or the year after, I think we owe it to the students to make a decision so that we can show that we are looking to better their situation as opposed to any one individual or any few individuals. Again, if we are not here about the kids, then we have no business being here.

Mr. Arminio stated that do we need to make a motion and then second it. Mr. Damato stated yes. Mr. Arminio stated can someone just make a motion to approve the plan.

Moved by Mr. Nufrio, seconded by Dr. Francis that the following resolution be adopted:

O-1. APPROVE HAMILTON SCHOOL USE PLAN

Now we will vote – the approval of the plan just simply goes forward and get it set up, whether the time frame is September or October and at our planning session or next session under discussion we can talk about what to do with the second floor. We can talk about other uses of the leftover facility. This is only for the moving of the special services and the supervisors to that one area. That is all we are working on. The rest of it will take care of itself as we go along. You either approve the plan and we go forward or you do not approve the plan and then it goes back to ground zero and we have to start all over again. Mr. McDowell stated just to restate what the plan is – is to move special services and the supervisors to Hamilton.

Mr. Damato stated just to be clear this resolution would be to also authorize the administration to submit whatever applications that are necessary to the New Jersey Department of Education. Mr. Arminio stated yes, whatever that is. Everyone clear.

AYES: Dr. Francis, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Nufrio, Mrs. Zuena, Mr. Arminio

NAYES: Mr. Galante, Mr. Salcedo

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the Board, it was moved by Mr. Nufrio, seconded by Mr. Salcedo that the meeting be adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

AYES: Dr. Francis, Mr. Galante, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Nufrio, Mr. Salcedo, Mrs. Zuena, Mr. Arminio

NAYES: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,



JAMES J. DAMATO  
BOARD SECRETARY