

TOWNSHIP OF UNION BOARD OF EDUCATION
WORKSESSION MINUTES – April 18, 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 Tuesday, April 18, 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 (via Zoom), Ms. Dixiana Carbonell, Ms. Marissa McKenzie, Mrs. Nellis Regis-Darby, Ms. Chastity Santana, Mrs. Kimberly Scott-Hayden

ABSENT AT ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Nancy Minneci, Mr. John O’Shea, Mrs. Mary Lynn Williams (arrived 7:16 p.m.)

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Mr. Lester Taylor, Esq.

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

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

Ms. Santana read the district’s mission statement.

MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Moved by Mrs. Scott-Hayden, seconded by Ms. Santana, that the Board go into Executive Session at 7:06 p.m. to discuss the following subject matters without the presence of the public in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b: litigation update; personnel.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

The Board returned to public session at 7:52 p.m.

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

None

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes will be approved at next week's meeting.

Communications:

Communications are part of personnel.

Superintendent's Report:

The Superintendent will present the state of the schools and student spotlight next week. A public hearing on the budget will be next week.

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. Williams, for adoption:

E-1. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT OF HIB

Superintendent's Report of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) for the period March 15, 2023 to April 18, 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 February 22, 2023 to March 14, 2023, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

DISCUSSION:

None

AYE: Mrs. Brens-Watson, Ms. Carbonell, Mrs. Regis-Darby, Ms. Santana, Mrs. Scott-Hayden,
Mrs. Williams, Ms. McKenzie

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Fiscal and Planning Committee Resolutions:

Ms. McKenzie presented the Fiscal and Planning Committee agenda.

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

F-6. APPROVE DISTRICT WIDE 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. 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.

DISCUSSION:

None

AYE: Mrs. Brens-Watson, Ms. Carbonell, Mrs. Regis-Darby, Ms. Santana, Mrs. Scott-Hayden, Mrs. Williams, Ms. McKenzie

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

DISCUSSION:

Mrs. Regis-Darby questioned renewing the Pomptonian, the food service vendor. Mrs. Koon stated this is the 5th year for this vendor and the district is allowed to renew food services for five years. Next year we will go out for RFPs.

Mrs. Regis-Darby asked Pomptonian if they had any feedback from students. The representatives of Pomptonian stated that they have been having meetings with students in different schools and grades. They have been to four schools so far and have received good feedback from the students. Once a week they have international food days and it is a good way to introduce new foods and flavors to the students. Once a month they have food from farm items

Operations Committee Resolutions:

Ms. Santana presented the Operations Committee agenda.

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following resolution was moved by Ms. Santana, seconded by Mrs. Williams for adoption:

O-6. APPROVE MULTICULTURAL FOOD TRUCK EVENT

Approve Multicultural Food Truck Event hosted by the Multicultural Committee on April 28, 2023 at Franklin Elementary School blacktop from 3-5 p.m., in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

DISCUSSION:

None

AYE: Mrs. Brens-Watson, Ms. Carbonell, Mrs. Regis-Darby, Ms. Santana, Mrs. Scott-Hayden,
Mrs. Williams, Ms. McKenzie

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Personnel Committee Resolutions:

Mrs. Scott-Hayden presented the Personnel Committee agenda.

DISCUSSION:

None

Residency Committee Resolutions:

Ms. Santana presented the Residency Committee agenda.

DISCUSSION:

None

Approval of Bills:

Bills will be approved next week.

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

None

Comments from the Public:

Stephen Agnone stated that Union High School and the Police Department is not helping his daughter and has failed her. She was attacked by her ex-boyfriend and every strike made me sick – no one helped her. Her boyfriend walked away. He was sent to night school but he was not arrested. It took 20 minutes for the administration to come see her. He wants the student out of the school.

Mr. Taylor stated that the Board cannot respond because it is a student matter.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the Board in public session it was moved by Mrs. Regis-Darby, seconded by Ms. Santana, that the meeting be adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

AYE: Mrs. Brens-Watson, Ms. Carbonell, Mrs. Regis-Darby, Ms. Santana, Mrs. Scott-Hayden,
Mrs. Williams, Ms. McKenzie

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Yolanda Koon

YOLANDA KOON
BOARD SECRETARY

