

NOTICE OF MEETING:

TO ALL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS:

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Township of Union will be held on Tuesday, April 21, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at Union High School Auditorium, 2400 North Third Street, Union, New Jersey 07083

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Township of Union will be held on Tuesday, April 21, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at Union High School Auditorium, 2400 North Third Street, Union, New Jersey pursuant to notice sent to each member.

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:

Mr. David Arminio, Dr. Guy Francis, Mr. Richard Galante, Ms. Lois Jackson, Mr. Thomas Layden, Mr. Ron McDowell, Mr. Vito Nufrio, Mr. Angel Salcedo, Ms. Nancy Zuena

ABSENT AT ROLL CALL:

None

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

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

Mr. Arminio called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Arminio stated that we will do the approval of minutes and that we will table #3 (February 19, 2015) and #6 (March 10, 2015) only because they were emailed separately and I don't know if everyone had a chance to read it – it was emailed to your Township email address, you may or may not have had a chance to read those two. We will approve the others and next month we can approve those two Executive Sessions after everyone has had a chance to look at them if you have not. They were sent to Township of Union email address. If you need to read them and you should read them – please look at your Township of Union email address and look at those two Executive Sessions – the February 19<sup>th</sup> Executive Session (#3) and the March 10<sup>th</sup> Executive Session (#6). Do we need a motion to table those? Mr. Damato stated no – the motion would be to just move #1, 2, 4, 5 and 7.

Moved by Mr. Nufrio, seconded by Mr. Layden that the Executive Session minutes of February 19, 2015 and March 10, 2015 were tabled until the May 19<sup>th</sup> regular meeting and that the following minutes were approved:

Planning Session – February 7, 2015

AYE: Dr. Francis, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Layden, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Nufrio, Mr. Salcedo, Mrs. Zuena, Mr. Arminio

NAY: none

ABSTAIN: Mr. Galante

Regular Meeting – February 19, 2015

AYE: Dr. Francis, Mr. Galante, Mr. Layden, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Nufrio, Mrs. Zuena, Mr. Arminio

NAY: none

ABSTAIN: Ms. Jackson, Mr. Salcedo

Special Meeting – March 2, 2015

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

NAY: none

ABSTAIN: Ms. Jackson, Mr. Layden,

Work Session – March 10, 2015

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

NAY: none

ABSTAIN: Ms. Jackson

Regular Meeting – March 17, 2015

AYE: Dr. Francis, Mr. Galante, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Layden, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Nufrio, Mrs. Zuena, Mr. Arminio

NAY: none

ABSTAIN: Mr. Salcedo

MOTION WAS CARRIED

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Arminio asked if anything needs to be mentioned or any additions. Mr. Damato stated that there are no late communications. The communications are listed in the Personnel section of the agenda for approval as well. Mr. Arminio stated that he would like to congratulate those individuals who are resigning for purpose of retirement – the first one, Pota Stavrou, Linda Bykowski – we thank them for their service to our school system.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION - STAVROU

Letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement from Pota Stavrou, employee for the transportation department, effective July 1, 2015.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION - BYKOWSKI

Letter of resignation from Linda Bykowski, librarian at Burnet Middle School, submitted a letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement effective July 1, 2015.

**LETTER OF RESIGNATION - RACZYNSKI**

Letter of resignation from Jamie Raczynski, teacher at Hannah Caldwell Elementary School, effective July 1, 2015.

**LETTER OF RESIGNATION – SCOBEE**

Letter of resignation from Cynthia Scobee, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher at Franklin Elementary School, effective July 1, 2015.

**LETTER OF RESIGNATION – WEBER**

Letter of resignation from Thomas Weber, full-time teaching assistant at Battle Hill Elementary School, effective immediately.

**REQUEST FOR MATERNITY, SICK AND UNPAID FAMILY LEAVE - LAWLER**

Request for maternity, sick and unpaid family leave from Heather Lawler, speech language pathologist for Washington Elementary School and Hannah Caldwell Elementary School for the period May 18, 2015 through the end of the 2014-2015 school year.

**REQUEST FOR MATERNITY, SICK AND UNPAID FAMILY LEAVE - CARHART**

Request for maternity, sick and unpaid family leave from Cynthia Carhart, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher at Connecticut Farms Elementary School for the period May 18, 2015 through June 23, 2015 and September 2 through October 12, 2015.

**REQUEST FOR MATERNITY AND SICK LEAVE - LOMBARDO**

Request for maternity and sick leave from Kathleen Lombardo, teacher at Jefferson School for the period June 4, 2015 through the end of the 2014-2015 school year.

**REQUEST FOR MATERNITY, SICK AND UNPAID FAMILY LEAVE – NIOTIS**

Request for maternity, sick and unpaid family leave from Jenna Niotis, teacher at Connecticut Farms Elementary School for the period from May 11 through June 23, 2015 and September 2, 2015 through October 13, 2015.

**REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF UNPAID MEDICAL LEAVE – GOLDING O'BRIEN**

Request for extension of unpaid medical leave through April 27, 2015 from Maura Golding O'Brien, teacher at Franklin Elementary School.

**REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF SICK LEAVE – POLINGER**

Request for extension of sick leave through April 12, 2015 from Karen Polinger, 12-month secretary in central office.

**LETTER OF RESIGNATION – AXENTIYOU**

Letter of resignation from Nicole Axentiou, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher at Hannah Caldwell Elementary School, effective July 1, 2015.

**REQUEST FOR MATERNITY, SICK AND UNPAID FAMILY LEAVE – CANNON**

Request for maternity, sick and unpaid family leave from Colleen Cannon, art teacher at Battle Hill and Livingston Elementary Schools for the period from May 1 through June 30, 2015.

**REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF MATERNITY AND UNPAID FAMILY LEAVE – DURAK**  
Request for extension of maternity and unpaid family leave from Shannon Durak, physical education and health teacher at Burnet Middle School for the period from June 1 through June 30, 2015.

**REQUEST FOR UNPAID SICK LEAVE – BETHEA**  
Request for unpaid sick leave from Georgia Bethea, service worker at Franklin Elementary School for the period from February 19, 2015 with a tentative return date of May 19, 2015.

**REQUEST FOR PAID SICK LEAVE – CARROLL**  
Request for paid sick leave from Joan Carroll, special services teacher at Battle Hill Elementary School for the period from May 6, 2015 with a tentative return date of June 17, 2015.

**LETTER OF RESIGNATION – POLLINGER**  
Letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement from Karen Polinger, Confidential Administrative Assistant in the Payroll Department, effective September 1, 2015.

**REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF LEAVE - CRUTCHFIELD**  
Request for extension of leave from Cheryl Crutchfield, part-time transportation worker, to a tentative return date of May 4, 2015.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:**

Mr. Tatum stated the following: for the month of March the Student Attendance was **95.084%** and Staff **94.283%**. He is happy to announce that the districtwide planning committee has been selected and met on Tuesday, March 31, 2015. The new committee as has been announced in previous meetings, this committee will meet on a monthly basis to discuss and recommend various topics that we intend to hopefully put together to lead to improvement in the District. The committee consists of teacher representatives from each school building, district administrators of both, the elementary and secondary levels, parents, community representatives, and support staff members. Our next meeting is planned for next Tuesday, April 28, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at the Administration Building.

PARCC Update: As all of you know, the second semester of the PARCC exam began this week for the high school students. Students in grades 3-8 will continue with the assessment beginning Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. At this time I will ask Dr. Lishak to us a report on the percentage of students who took the PARCC exam.

Dr. Lishak stated that she had a number of questions regarding how many students actually took part in the PARCC assessment. As you know, our target goal for assessment is 95%. It looks like at this point for our PBA administration – our District had 81.5% of the students participate in the PARCC assessment. We just began the end of year assessment at the high school on Monday and today as well and we are still receiving letters of refusals – so that this number is actually going to decrease. Our EOY numbers will be less than that 81.5%. The numbers throughout the buildings vary depending upon which level. For example, we have one

building, Franklin Elementary School where 98% of the students participated in the PARCC assessment. Whereas, our lowest participation rate shows at the high school at 77.5%. What this will actually mean for the District in the terms of if the State does everything about not meeting our 95% participation rate that is yet to be seen but that is where our numbers stand right now.

Mr. Tatum thanked Dr. Lishak and continued with his Superintendent Report. District Highlights: Livingston school participated in the Jump Rope For Heart Program. They raised \$3,300. Hairspray Jr., at Kawameeh Middle School, had over 50 students and staff who participated in this year's play. Each night of the performance was completely sold out which is a strong testament to our theater art department. Tomorrow, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Mrs. Minnoia's class at Jefferson School will be planting a garden, sponsored by the Recreation Department, in honor of Earth Day. Students, teachers, and parents from Connecticut Farms rose over \$7,000 for the American Heart Association during Jump Rope for Heart. We talked a little about that in previous month. Hannah Caldwell raised \$950 to benefit Autism by selling pencils throughout the school. Battle Hill parents were invited to their student's classroom to participate in Read Across America Day. Tomorrow, Washington School staff will participate in a Staff Volley Ball Game to excite students for the second round of PARCC testing. This event will also provide awareness of recycling for Earth Day, as the volleyball net will be made up of recycled soda can tabs. On March 28, 2015, Mrs. Ahern and her committee successfully hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Family Resource Fair at Union High School which I understand was also a huge success. During the month of May, 176 of our high school students will be taking 22 different AP exams. On March 27<sup>th</sup>, the Burnet students participated in March Madness to promote positive behavior which was covered by the Star Ledger and NJ.com. Also, I believe Kawameeh Middle School participated in the same activity – something called March Madness there as well. Franklin School held their annual "Green and Gold" Tricky Tray Fundraiser. The funds collected during this event benefit the student activities throughout the year.

Student Recognition: Please forgive me on the pronunciation of these names, Lilac Bancairen and Gianna Vidal on Livingston school were selected as winner in the American Legion Coloring Contest. Lilac came in 1<sup>st</sup> place and will receive a \$75 prize. Gianna came in 3<sup>rd</sup> place and will receive a \$25 prize. Guy Francis and Angelina Maffei from Jefferson School were winners of the Vauxhall Historical Society Black History Essay Contest. Aveesh Patel and Brendan Sarpong, also from Jefferson School, received honorable mention in this contest. One of the 11<sup>th</sup> grade students and I believe her name is Honor Donnie, was selected by the Woman's Club of Union to attend the Girls Career Institute, hosted at Rutgers University, for a week long seminar on leadership.

Upcoming Events in the District: Jefferson School will be conducting their annual Spelling Bee, Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. April 23<sup>rd</sup> is "Take Your Child to Work Day". The District participates in this nationwide event and hopes all of our young visitors enjoy their day and as I mentioned earlier, the next round of the Planning Committee will be for April 28, at 6:30 PM, at the administration building and finally, I don't know if Mr. Benaquista is here right now, Mr. Benaquista, our Director of Human Resources, Board President and hosted by our Town Mayor Figuerido, attended a worthwhile program last week on afterschool programs and I think that many of you know that we are looking to bring additional programs to the District and I think the fact that we were invited to go and find out some vital information – we will continue to pursue

those programs and hopefully it will be another topic to discuss at the planning level and the board level.

Mr. Arminio thanked Mr. Tatum and asked if Mr. Benaquista could give this during Unfinished Business. I really would like everyone here, especially the board members, to hear a little bit about the options that are available to us in the afterschool programs and the before school programs sponsored by federal and state agencies which can only benefit us. It would be nice to hear a little bit about it and he is the expert.

#### EDUCATION/STUDENT DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS:

Mr. Arminio asked Dr. Francis to speak about the Education Resolutions. Mr. McDowell stated he would.

Mr. McDowell stated items E-1 through E-8 are committee recommendations which I move and E-9 through E-10 are recommendations of the Superintendent. The only items I would like to bring to attention would be E-6, E-7 and E-10. E-6 we are asking the board to approve the amended school calendar for 2015-2016 school year. I believe that calendar is available now on the school website. E-7 we are asking the board to approve the gifted and talented criteria for grades K-5 and grades 6-8. The last item E-10 is a recommendation by the Superintendent for the board to approve the application for Honors and AP Criteria in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

Moved by Mr. McDowell, seconded by Ms. Jackson that the following resolutions be adopted:

#### E-1. AMEND 2014-2015 OUT-OF-DISTRICT SENT AND RECEIVED ATYPICAL STUDENT PLACEMENT AND TUITION LISTS

That the board amend the 2014-2015 out-of-district atypical student placement list and students exited from out-of-district placement in accordance with the information appended to the non-public portion of these minutes.

#### E-2. APPROVE LIST OF STUDENTS REMOVED FROM THE ROLLS

That the board approve the list of students removed from the rolls [zero (0) students exited from March 1st through March 31, 2015 or a total of thirty-four (34) students for the 2014-2015 school year] who are not domiciled in this school district and one (1) students who will be allowed to complete the 2014-2015 school year in accordance with the information appended to the non-public portion of these minutes.

#### E-3. APPROVE CURRICULUM GUIDES

That the board approve the Curriculum Guides for the following: (a) Grade 3 - Ensemble: Orchestra Curriculum Guide (2014-2015), (b) Grade 3 - Band Group Lessons Curriculum Guide 2014-2015, (c) Group Lessons – Grade 4 – Band Group Lessons Curriculum Guide (2014-2015), (d) Hs General Art Curriculum Guide (2014/15) (Curriculum Guide Approved), (e) French IV Honors Curriculum Guide (Curriculum Guide Approved June 2015), (f) French V Honors Curriculum Guide (Curriculum Guide Approved June 2015), (g) Grades 5 Social Studies (2015), (h) French III Curriculum Guide (Curriculum Guide Approved June 2015); (i) French III Honors

Curriculum Guide (Curriculum Guide Approved June 2015); (j) Grade 3 Language Arts Curriculum Guide 2015) ; (k) French 2 Curriculum Guide (Curriculum Guide Approved April 2015); (l) French 2 Honors Curriculum Guide (Curriculum Guide Approved April 2015); (m) Grade 3 Concert Band Curriculum Guide 2014-2015; (n) Grade 4 String Group Lessons Curriculum Guide 2014-2015; (o) Grade 3: Group Lessons, Strings Curriculum Guide 2014-2015 in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

**E-4. APPROVE 2014-2015 PARENTAL CONTRACT FOR STUDENT TRANSPORTATION**

That the board approve the 2014-2015 Parental Contract for Student Transportation in accordance with the information appended to the non-public portion of these minutes.

**E-5. APPROVE JOINT TRANSPORTATION SERVICE AGREEMENT**

That the board approve joint transportation service agreement with Morris-Union Jointure Commission Board of Education for the 2014-2015 school year in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

**E-6. APPROVE AMENDED SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR 2015-2016**

That the board approve the amended School Calendar for the 2015-2016 school year in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

**E-7. APPROVE REVISED GIFTED AND TALENTED ENTRANCE CRITERIA**

That the board approve the revised gifted and talented entrance criteria for Grades K-5 and Grades 6-8 in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

**E-8. APPROVE RESOLUTION HONORING ENTHUSIASTIC READERS**

That the board approve a resolution honoring our district's students that have been designated as Enthusiastic Readers in accordance with the information appended to the non-public portion of these minutes.

**E-9. APPROVE APPLICATIONS FOR INSTALLATION ON DISTRICT IPADS**

That the board approve the following applications for installation and use on district IPADS by students and staff (at no cost to the district): (a) ABC House for Children! Learn First Words and Phrases in English, (b) iTooch Lite 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, (c) Reading Comprehension Prep, (d) Story Creator – Easy Story Book Maker for Kids, and (e) Wood Vault.

**E-10. APPROVE APPLICATION FOR HONORS AND AP CRITERIA**

That the board approve the application for Honors and AP Criteria in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

**DISCUSSION:**

Mr. Arminio asked if there were any questions and/or comments. He stated that he would like to make one comment on E-8 – the Enthusiastic Readers, it is a great program – there is some kind of program coming up at Jefferson Auditorium tomorrow. Any other questions or comments? None

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

NAY: none

ABSTAIN: none

MOTION WAS CARRIED

FISCAL AND PLANNING COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS:

Mr. Arminio asked Ms. Jackson to go over the Fiscal and Planning Resolutions. Ms. Jackson stated that F-1 through F-12 and she wanted to bring to the attention of the board F-12 as a new item which is the Committee recommends and I shall move that the board accept a donation from CS Global for free rental of (55) SFK LED Lighting Fixtures for Union High School's production of Sophisticated Ladies in accordance with the information appended to these minutes. Ms. Jackson stated F-1 to F-12.

Moved by Ms. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Salcedo that the following resolutions be adopted:

F-1. ACCEPT TREASURER'S REPORT

That the Treasurer's Report dated March 31, 2015 be accepted.

F-2. ACCEPT SECRETARY'S REPORT

That the Secretary's Report dated March 31, 2015 be accepted.

F-3. CERTIFY TREASURER'S AND SECRETARY'S REPORTS

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(a), I certify that as of March 31, 2015 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.

James J. Damato, Board Secretary

Dated

Pursuant to N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.2(h), we certify that as of March 31, 2015 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 LINE ITEM TRANSFERS

That the Board approve line item transfers in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

F-5. APPROVE CONTRACTS AND/OR PURCHASE ORDERS

That the Board approve the attached list of contracts and/or purchase orders pursuant to the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5 and 18A:18A-10(a) and in accordance with the



information appended to these minutes.

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

That the Board 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 these minutes.

**F-7. APPROVE CONTRACTS AND/OR PURCHASES**

That the board approve attached list of contracts and/or purchases pursuant to the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5(21) in accordance with the information appended to these minutes: (a) Sports Paradise – not to exceed - \$10,000 – sports apparel for the Union High School football team; (b) Metro Fundraising – not to exceed - \$3,974.55 – Kawameeh Middle School student council fundraiser; (c) Gertrude Hawk – not to exceed \$3,899.18 – Union High School chorus/band fundraiser; (d) Fairview Lake YMCA Camp – not to exceed - \$4,032.00 – Union High School – Campers Fund (May camping trip); (e) Township of Union Board of Education – not to exceed \$1,035.00 – Union High School – K. Brooks Field Trips (transportation for 6/2/15 field trip to Point Pleasant); (f) World Stage – not to exceed \$7,100.00 – Union High School PAC (main lighting rental for “Sophisticated Ladies”; (g) Festivals of Music – not to exceed \$4,401.00 – Burnet Middle School Dorney Park Festival; (h ) Villani Bus Company – not to exceed \$2,610.00 – Burnet Middle School – field trip to Allentown, Pennsylvania.

**F-8. APPROVE DISTRICTWIDE STUDENT FIELD TRIP DESTINATIONS AND PURPOSES**

That the Board 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 these minutes.

**F-9. APPROVE ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS**

That the Board accept the following donations: (a) \$52.42 from Target for use by Brunet Middle School; (b) \$111.56 from Barnes & Noble Booksellers for use by Jefferson School; (c) \$702.50 from Lifetouch National School Studies for use by Livingston Elementary School; (d) \$42.70 from Ahold Financial Services for use by Hannah Caldwell Elementary School; (e) \$31.01 from Target for use by Hannah Caldwell Elementary School; (f) \$78.01 from Target for use by Livingston Elementary School; (g) \$113.60 from Target for use by Connecticut Farms Elementary School.

**F-10. APPROVAL RENEWAL OF PETTY CASH FUND**

That the board renew the following petty cash fund for 2015-2016 school year:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Expend</u>	<u>Res. Ind.</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Form</u>	<u>End of Fiscal Year</u>
Sec'y	\$500	\$500	J. Damato	Annual	Board	Unused sum returned to general fund

**F-11. APPROVE SUBMISSION OF AMENDED PERKINS GRANT**

That the board approve submission of the amended Perkins Grant in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

**F-12. ACCEPT DONATION FROM CS GLOBAL**

That the board accept a donation from CS Global for free rental of (55) SFK LED Lighting Fixtures for Union High School's production of Sophisticated Ladies in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

**DISCUSSION:**

Mr. Arminio stated that anything for free is good. Any questions and/or comments? None.

**AYE:** Dr. Francis, Mr. Galante, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Layden, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Nufrio, Mr. Salcedo, Mrs. Zuena, Mr. Arminio

**NAY:** none

**ABSTAIN:** none

**MOTION WAS CARRIED**

**OPERATIONS COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS:**

Mr. Arminio asked Mr. Layden to go through the Operations Resolutions. Mr. Layden stated that the Operations Committee met last Tuesday during our Worksession and we reviewed and approved O-1 through O-3 – so tonight everyone is going to move O-1 through O-3 for our action.

Moved by Mr. Layden, seconded by Mr. McDowell that the following resolutions be adopted:

**O-1. AFFIRM SUPERINTENDENTS RESOLUTION OF HIB**

That the board affirm the Superintendent's resolution of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) conclusions for the period March 9, 2015 to April 10, 2015.

**O-2. APPROVE SECURITY DRILL AND BUS EVACUATION REPORTS**

That pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:41-1 and P.L. 2009, Chapter 178, the board approve the following security drill and bus evacuation reports for the 2014-2015 school year in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

**O-3. APPROVE UHS TITLE I SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAM**

That the board approve the Union High School Title I Summer School Program shall be moved to Burnet Middle School for summer 2015.

**DISCUSSION:**

Mr. Arminio asked if there were any questions and/or comments or concerns? None.

**AYE:** Dr. Francis, Mr. Galante, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Layden, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Nufrio, Mr. Salcedo, Mrs. Zuena, Mr. Arminio

**NAY:** none

**ABSTAIN:** none

**MOTION WAS CARRIED**

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS:**

Mr. Arminio asked Mr. Nufrio to take us through the Personnel Resolutions. Mr. Nufrio stated that the only comment is what I indicated at the Worksession is that there is a change that needed to be made at P-1, assuming that that was done, I saw the back-up and it looks like it was done – right Mr. Damato. Mr. Damato stated that he is not sure what he was inferring to – you should probably ask Mr. Tatum. P-1 comes from Mr. Benaquista to Mr. Tatum. Mr. Tatum stated that that item you are referring was taken care of. Mr. Nufrio stated that having said that – there are 12 resolutions being recommended by the Superintendent for the board to consider for approval.

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

**P-1. APPROVE PERSONNEL ACTIONS**

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

**P-2. AMEND SUBSTITUTION LISTS FOR 2014-2015**

That the Board amend Substitute Lists for the 2014-2015 school year in accordance with the information in the hands of each board.

**P-3. ACCEPT LETTERS OF RESIGNATION:**

That the board accept letters of resignation from the following staff: (a) Pota Stavrou, employee of the transportation department, effective July 1, 2015 (retirement); (b) Linda Bykowski, librarian at Burnet Middle School, effective July 1, 2015 (retirement); (c) Jamie Raczynski, teacher at Hannah Caldwell Elementary School, effective July 1, 2015 (resignation); (d) Cynthia Scobee, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher at Franklin Elementary School, effective July 1, 2015 (resignation); (e) Thomas Weber, full-time teaching assistant at Battle Hill Elementary School, effective immediately (resignation); (f) Nicole Axentiou, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher at Hannah Caldwell Elementary School, effective July 1, 2015 (resignation); (g) Karen Polinger, Confidential Administrative Assistant in the Payroll Department, effective September 1, 2015 (retirement).

**P-4. APPROVE LEAVES FOR STAFF**

That the board approve leaves for the following staff: (a) Heather Lawler, speech language pathologist, maternity, sick and unpaid family leave for the period May 18, 2015 through the end of the 2014-2015 school year; (b) Cynthia Carhart, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher at Connecticut Farms Elementary School, maternity, sick and unpaid family leave for the period May 18, 2015 through June 23, 2015 and September 2 through October 12, 2015; (c) Kathleen Lombardo, teacher at Jefferson School, maternity and sick leave for the period June 4, 2015 through June 23, 2015; (d) Jenna Niotis, teacher at Connecticut Farms Elementary School, maternity, sick and unpaid family leave for the period from May 11, 2015 through June 23, 2015 and September 2, 2015 through October 13, 2015; (e) Maura Golding O'Brien, teacher at Franklin Elementary School, extension of unpaid medical leave through April 27, 2015; (f) Karen Polinger, 12-month secretary in central office, extension of sick leave through April 12, 2015; (g) Colleen Cannon, art teacher at Battle Hill and Livingston Elementary Schools, maternity, sick and unpaid family leave for the period May 1, 2015 through the end of the 2014-

2015 school year; (h) Shannon Durak, physical education and health teacher at Burnet Middle School, extension of maternity, sick and unpaid leave for the period from June 1, 2015 through the end of the 2014-2015 school year; (i) Georgia Bethea, service worker at Franklin School for the period from February 19, 2015 with a tentative return date of May 19, 2015; (j) Joan Carroll, special services teacher at Battle Hill Elementary School, paid sick leave for the period from May 6, 2015 with a tentative return date of June 17, 2015; (k) Cheryl Crutchfield, part-time transportation worker, unpaid extension of leave to a tentative date of May 4, 2015.

P-5. ADJUSTMENTS IN SALARY

That the board approve the adjustment in salary to Class IV Step 10 (\$63,959) to Class IV Step 14 (\$66,272) for Gerald Schemel, ROTC teacher, effective 1/1/2015 (school employing ROTC) in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

P-6. APPROVE PAYMENT

That the board approve payment for the preparation of the 2015 Union High School Graduation Booklet at a rate of \$600.00 per person for the following staff: Gerry Muller, Dianne Loguidice and John Shaffer.

P-7. APPROVE COMPENSATION

That the board approve compensation at a rate of \$20.00 per hour (with a not-to-exceed maximum of 15 hours) for (a) the Language Arts Grade 4 Curriculum Writing team for the following staff: Susan Craig, Leslie Nigro and Jaclyn Vincent, and (b) the Social Studies Grade 4 Curriculum Writing team for the following staff: John Bogner, Alison Brehm and Karen Freitas in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

P-8. APPROVE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

That the board approve Settlement Agreement and Release for Employee #10991 in accordance with the information appended to the non-public portion of these minutes.

P-9. APPROVE PERKINS SALARY DISBURSEMENT 2014-2015

That the board approve the Perkins Salary Disbursement 2014-2015 in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

P-10. APPROVE EWEG TRAINING

That the board approve Constance Krupa to attend the Union County Education Services Commission for EWEG training on April 29, 2015 (at no cost to the district).

P-11. APPROVE ATTENDANCE AT WORKSHOPS

That the board approve Frank Santora, Supervisor of Special Services, to attend meetings, workshops and presentations at the Morris Union Jointure Commission from April 2015-June 2015 (at no cost to the district).

P-12. APPROVE EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY SUBSTITUTE

That the board approve the extension of Norma McGarry for temporary substitute replacement for Karen Polinger (BOE payroll office) from April 6, 2015 through April 12, 2015 in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Arminio asked if there were any questions, comments or concerns? None.

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

NAY: none

ABSTAIN: none

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Mr. Arminio asked Ms. Jackson to prepare for the bills. Mr. Jackson stated that the committee recommends and I so move that the board concur with the bills listed in the permanent bound register appended to these minutes and be ordered for payment.

Moved by Ms. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Salcedo that the board concur with the bills listed in the permanent bound register appended to these minutes and be ordered for payment.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Arminio asked if there were any questions, comments or concerns? I don't think there are any – let's pay our bills.

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

NAY: none

ABSTAIN: none

MOTION WAS CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Arminio asked if Mr. Benaquista could come up and tell us about the program that he went to in Newark. Mr. Benaquista stated that he had the opportunity to attend the New Jersey Mayoral Summit – it's about strong communities and strong cities. I really want to thank Mr. Tatum for giving me the opportunity to go with the Board President, Mr. Arminio and the Township of Union Mayor Figuerido. We really got to see and listen to how to deal with afterschool activities; what it does for our communities. The reason why it came through Town hall because the recreation department was also there – because they really believe in tying it in all together – working for the same cause as far as getting these programs up and running. There was a lot of research that was done and it really showed how successful afterschool programs are really going to benefit not only your school district but your community as well. It really talks about the word quality – not just the afterschool program but the quality geared toward the needs in your community and your students and they talked about meeting with the youth and the students and finding out what their needs are and finding out what the parents in the community need after school. As soon as we got in the car (we drove together), the brain storming already started and I think just the car ride was successful - we discussed different things that the Town and the school could do together – reaching out to other communities and seeing what other communities are doing with their afterschool programs did for certain individuals and now leaders in the community and it really hit home and I know Mr. Tatum has a passion to get

quality afterschool programs up and running and I know that we have started the talk, we need to continue and really find out what best suits our community and really make a push to get things going. It was a great day. Mr. Arminio stated I know that we will have further dialogue on this issue. Mr. Tatum wanted to comment on Mr. Benaquista comments – I think he just gave us a new strategy for getting things done – we need to get in a car and ride around a little bit more often so maybe some great brainstorming can take place. Thank you very much for attending and bringing back your report.

Mr. Arminio asked if there was any more unfinished or new business? Mr. Layden stated that on March 29<sup>th</sup>, he attended the matinee and final performance of our Union High School performing arts and production of *Sophisticated Ladies*. I want to say that it was one of the best musical shows that I had ever seen and I have seen a lot of shows in my day and this was certainly Broadway caliber production and I just wanted to recognize the cast in the play...James Frazier, Jonathan Duvelson, Bernice Onanuga, Javon King, Monique Bingham, Ashley Figueiredo, Kristian Adap, Chrystal Wright, Jason Yanto, Joseph and Leanne Laurino, Charlene Puertollano, one of the best productions that I have seen and I wanted to congratulate James Mosser, the director, Laura Muller, the conductor and the entire staff and production company for an amazing job. If this does not win for best musical as rising stars I don't know what would. Mr. Arminio thanked Mr. Layden and stated he knows of other members of the board that had attended and enjoyed the play very much. As always it is tremendous.

Mr. Arminio asked if there was any other new business or unfinished business? Mr. Arminio stated that he would like to point out that the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys' basketball team who play at Kawameeh – if I'm not mistaken – their home game went undefeated this past season at 15-0 and I would like to congratulate Cory Baker and Steve Deering with their work with kids and leading them to an undefeated season. This past Saturday, right here at Union High School out on the track, a grassroots organization called Autism Roots started by a high school student had a walk on the track and they raised \$750 which will be donated to Children's Specialized Hospital in Philadelphia and their advisor Jennifer Hudcowski (sp?) of the high school...congratulations to you and the organization for a wonderful job. It was wonderful walking and talking to the high school kids as we went around the track. It was very nice to interact with the high school kids. Next week, April 29<sup>th</sup>, right here in the auditorium is our budget hearing. I know that everyone wants to come and hear about the budget for next year. It is something you can't miss and I know that everyone will want to be here. In fact, we have invited the PTA Presidents to come next week and after the budget hearing and I'm offering it to the board members if you can stay for some cookies and milk after the budget meeting with PTA Presidents to have some dialogue here in the auditorium. It would be nice. That closes my new business and unfinished business. Do we have any other unfinished business or new business? None.

#### COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr. Arminio asked if there were any comments from the public. Mr. Arminio asked that you state your name, affiliation and don't forget you have five minutes.

Thank you ladies and gentlemen – my name is Patrick Brooks – my boys are in Battle Hill school. I know this has been brought up on numerous occasions about air conditioning. The

weather is getting warmer and I know at times certain areas of the school get so warm that they have to displace students from one area to another. Not only talking the classes being displaced but also students either replacing or moving kids around and juggling and I know that just recently there was an issue – at times they could open up doors so that they can circulate the air and it's a violation – the fire department came and there was violations and they are no longer allowed to open the doors for circulation. My younger son has asthma – he is in kindergarten – and as temperature rises and we get closer to the end of the year – I worry about that. I know that – or at least I have heard, I don't know if this is true – it is my understanding that money has been allocated for air conditioners and I was wondering if there was a plan in place – a time, schedule etc. Mr. Arminio thanked him and asked him to email the Superintendent's office with that question and someone will respond to you. Mr. Brooks stated that it was his understanding that someone spoke with him this morning or later this afternoon and that he was going to look in to it. I just wanted to get your feelings on it. Thank you. I'm putting that out to you sir. Mr. Arminio stated that we do not respond to comments because we are speaking in a vacuum – what can we say that you haven't said – air conditioning is needed. Mr. Brooks stated that his question is – has money be allocated? Mr. Arminio stated he thought that was answered this afternoon. Mr. Brooks stated I don't know what was said – I'm trying to get confirmation sir. Mr. Arminio stated that Mr. Tatum said that there is a plan to resolve the issue. Mr. Brook's asked if the plan has a date – has a plan been set for the elementary schools? Mr. Arminio stated that Mr. Tatum will speak with you after the meeting. Mr. Brook's thanked the board.

Good evening everyone, Chris Capodice, President of the Union Township Teacher's Association. I come here tonight in front of the board to talk about PARCC. I have to tell you in this room or watching at home that obviously we can't do anything about PARCC – it came through the State and the District and preparing for this test for quite some time. I know that the Union Township Board of Education and the Administration at the schools have been reaching out to the community and reaching out to the parents and stackholders. Many times and in many situations – the Board of Education or building administrations – these initiatives, like PARCC is done with the help of our great staff and I can add as you can see the great staff – we tonight - I do have numbers with me tonight – actually the public – on what some of that effort – that great effort that we do – we have numbers here tonight to see firsthand on some of the concerns that they have – I know this is something that will be here – I know this is something that is going to remain here for next year – obviously we going into the second phase of PARCC but with that comes some concerns that members, educators in this District have. Some people are going to speak tonight about concerns they have on instruction time, classroom resources, classroom displacement. I am just asking this board of education and we are also going to educate the public tonight on some concerns that they have with this PARCC process. But yes, we still are going to continue doing what we do – we are still going to continue to meet all of our deadlines - we are still going to submit everything we need to submit because we are responsible educators for the Township of Union and we are going to do it because that is what we do and we want the board of education to know more specifically what that involves, what that entails and some of the concerns that we have in getting done. I urge you to please listen to what everyone has to say. Thank you very much. Mr. Arminio thanked Mr. Capodice.

Hello my name is Anne Margaret Shannon, I live at 2591 Spruce Street in Union. I am speaking tonight as a representative of Union High School staff and the Union Township

Teacher Association. I wanted you to know straight up front that I have three goals. No. 1 – I wish the State of New Jersey would pull out of the PARCC like the other 38 states. No. 2 – if they don't do that I wish that Union Township Board of Education would pull out of the PARCC and No. 3 the easiest thing for everyone to do here tonight, not literally tonight. The Township of Union Board of Education go back to a paper and pencil test next year. The educators are not opposed to testing – we are not opposed to assessments – but we are opposed to the abuse the assessment causes in the system. Think back to the HESPA only last year. UHS handled it and handled it beautifully. In three days. We changed our schedules, we did, but in three days only. PARCC ruined the entire month of March including two days in April and now round two started yesterday at Union High School. Our members, we are not opposed to helping the administration. We know that this is from the State – the schedule was done such that the prep that we are guaranteed in our contract were taken away. We do give up our contracted prep. If there is a flu epidemic and there aren't enough subs that are needed and you call me and say can you cover this class, we cover the class – but that is an emergency. It is not used as a tool to take our preparatory class away when we have grades due tomorrow and I didn't have a prep today to get my grades in – I got them in last night in my living room – but that should be? We have a preparatory period to do our administrative work and we lost them as the rule. Not as an exception but as a rule. It was part of our schedule to take our prep away. Seeing those 200+ numbers at Union High School – some people only lost two – some people lost eight days – where 20 days in March – eight days long with just their lunch – but during their lunch they had to go to the office for paperwork for their test. It doesn't sound like much – but my own personal experience yesterday – like I said, I come into work I teach four classes, I got to lunch, I eat quickly, I leave my lunch, I go to the office and get my paperwork, yesterday I had to get a little extra training because I was a little nervous, so I leave my lunch early and I go do the PARCC for the last four periods.

Now when we had the HESPA, we had someone else in the room – sometimes two or three – you could go in those four periods – you could go to the bathroom – but I know this doesn't mean a lot - but four periods without a bathroom – we let the children go to the bathroom – but we don't have anybody with us – I am not a technology person. Thankfully, we have a phone so that we can call – we had to call it many times, I did personally. So that is another concern – but my concern is the prep time, being alone and again using the prep period as a tool not as an emergency. In addition, worst part of my last two days, three of my six classes, college algebra students, I did not see, they had a substitute, not a math teacher to teach in class, I gave her a review sheet – it's good practice but 50% of the kids – 12<sup>th</sup> graders, college algebra did not see me for two days – some were glad but that is another story. Now UHS does use round numbers – there are about 1800 kids, 9<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> had math and English in March do it again, four tests – you are talking 7200 tests. We had about 300 computers, again a rough estimate and those 300 computers are taking computers, counting them, classroom computers, not 300 computer labs but classroom computers. So 7400 tests and 300 computers – you can see why it doesn't work. Again we are not opposed to helping but we are opposed to this test taking away all this educational time for our students. It is a tremendous task and I don't understand that. And all this leads to one question, the way this all started, Commissioner Hespe and the State Board of Education completely allowed for districts to do a paper and pencil test – so my question is if New Jersey doesn't get rid of PARCC and you don't get rid of PARCC, next year when we go through this debacle and that is what it is, can you please ask permission for a paper



and pencil test and we can hopefully get this done in 3-4 days, even 8 days is better than 20-22 days. I appreciate your time and I hope you strongly consider this for next year.

Mr. Arminio asked that you please adhere to the five minute rule.

Stephanie Whitehead, Math teacher at Union High School, I just wanted to take this opportunity to tell you a little bit about how PARCC has personally affected my classroom and the students in it. Today because I knew I was presenting tonight, I actually took some time and calculated how many days my students were directly affected. When I say directly affected that they did not receive new instruction – new material was not taught. That totals 15 days. That is three entire school weeks for student to be learning new concepts, engaging in hands on activities and learning from each other. One standardized test should not be allowed to take 15 days especially from math instruction on top of PARCC. I just wanted you to get an idea of a day and life of my students right now. So they come back from spring break and its quarterly exams and they take quarterly exams on Tuesday and on Wednesday and on Thursday and on Friday. They took approximately eight quarterly exams in one week. They come back next week – its Monday, and now the teachers have to get the second STO's exam. Today is the STO exam – tomorrow they take the PARCC test. So they take 9 or 10 exams within 9-10 weeks. There is no learning going on – they are learning to take tests and they are preparing to take these tests. Personally, I think, as teachers, as administrators, as the board we need to do better, we need to try to make a difference, we need to be teaching students, we need to be doing things about why we got involved in this profession. Thank you very much.

I'm James Mosser I am the director of theater here at UHS and I am going to follow suit with talking about the PARCC examination and what he has done to our program specifically. First I wanted to thank you for your support for over the years and incredible supporter and incredible help to our students and our program specifically. This year we ran into a bit of an issue with the PARCC exam. Typically we do a performance for our elementary and middle school where we encourage vertical articulation and try to get the students to stay with us as time goes on. One of the initiatives of our department is really working part on is getting kids to stay in our school system and not go to private schools or an arts magnet school but instead to stay here and enjoy the things we work so hard to do and part of that is exposing them to what our performances are and the programs do. This year because of the PARCC exam, no students were allowed to come to that performance so we were instead performing for our wonderful senior citizens who come to support us every year. So our students didn't get a chance to see what they can come to do and the students on stage did not get the support of the younger kids which many of them have shared with me that is what got them involved in our program. In addition, our kids did not go to either middle school performances because they were taking PARCC exams. So that was a little bit of an issue. In addition, in the arts programs, we teach all grade levels in mixed classes because we have kids from freshman through senior through junior year taking the PARCC exam, we were constantly missing students in every class during the entire month of March. So it becomes difficult to monitor what kids have gotten in content and what they haven't so you are constantly repeating – having all sorts of issues. This is something I wanted to point out that one of the programs that we pride is taking English, history, math and all these things and synergize in a different way, something that is not the typical form, that seek some students and our kids are missing out on.

Good evening my name is Courtney Ekert and I'm in the Union High School Business Education Department. I am here tonight to let you know that we are not opposed to the testing it's just the impact it has on our curriculum for the entire month and a half. Being a business education teacher, all of us have been taken out of our computer labs – the keyboarding teachers, teaching keyboarding with no computers, the computer labs teaching without computers. I teach financial literacy and my students are involved in two computer simulations, one is sponsored by ConnectOne Bank where we have a ceremony at the end of the year, giving out certificates for anyone who has been able to finish the program and because my classes are half year, my second half students are really struggling to finish the program and that is a shame because they could have had the opportunity to be awarded certificates. Also I do a computer simulation through H&R Block which is a countrywide competition that started this year and they actually are able to win real scholarship money by participating and this year my second semester students I gave them the opportunity to participate as extra credit because I wanted them to have the opportunity to possibly earn scholarships but because we aren't in computer labs, we are in regular classroom, some of them with smart boards, some of them with no projection system at all – they have not been given the opportunity that all the others years have been given. I just wanted to bring this to your attention how the curriculum and students are being affected. Not so much that we mind the test, just it has taken a month and half out of the classrooms. Thank you for your time.

Good evening, Michael Cohan 722 Greenwood Avenue South, Union. I apologize for my late arrival and missing the comments of the previous speakers. But I am aware after hearing some of your staff regarding the PARCC. I would like to add my voice to that and to tell you that it has been quite some time for some of the members of this board, I was a teacher in this school district for 30 years and eight years ago I retired and I work at the New Jersey Education Association since in the role of Director of Professional Development Instruction Issues and among the many responsibilities at that time, we monitor teaching and try to develop professional programs that help all our NJEA members be as effective as possible in the classroom. We teach them about assessment literacy and make certain that affective instruction is assessed in a way that adds to instruction and to ensure we know that the instruction is underway in classroom etc. I am here to tell you that the PARCC test does not add anything to that. I know that the Department of Education is trying to tell all of us, myself included, as recently as last week, that we finally have a test that will give us some of the diagnostic data that will help to really form instruction and while that may be true we don't know what it is going to look like yet. They have not delivered any of that data and I would like to pose to all you that the price you have to pay to get that data is too high. I again I have not heard the previous speakers were saying to you – but I suspect it related to losing instructional time being related to the loss of access to your district technology, it related to failure of technology and I have to say that from all the stories I have heard around the state from teachers in every kinds of school districts and I have always been very proud of this school district – I have devoted my life to it – I miss it, I miss being in the classroom with students and this being able to board my best advice of what it is I have learned from the work I do in the classroom and I hope you will listen to your stuff. The price you have to pay for what is going on with this PARCC is a perversion – or what it is we all believe as educators. So I am not sure of what the ask has been of my colleagues before tonight – but I like to ask this board to make sure you do what you can to push back – I'm

well aware that the Department of Education has issued all kinds of threats and make statements that you really don't have options – but I am going to say to you as the taxpayers of this community, you are elected to represent the people of this community and to make sure that the children of this community get the best education possible and taking 40 of 180 days out of instruction is not the way to guarantee that. So we are beginning the next phase of the 2<sup>nd</sup> series of administration of PARCC and everybody is going to have suffer through that – but next year is another year and I hope you will join the voices of the people all across the state and let the Department of Education and the Commissioner know that something has to be done. There is a commission that is continuing its deliberations signing the impact of assessment on instruction and I hope that you take the testimony you heard here tonight and that you hear throughout from your staff and issue a statement from this school district about what happened in the PARCC session – you have a very good administration here and let them know it doesn't work well. Thank you.

Mr. Brook reapproached on this subject and said that just as a parent I would like to add my two cents. I have a child in third grade and we decided to opt-out. He is a voracious reader, a very smart child. My wife and I are very well educated and we look at this and we see no benefit to add this to his education. So unfortunately at that time, as his classmates are working on this – he has to go into another room by himself and read – take a book, a color book or whatever he wants. During the time other students are doing this test or preparing for the test, my son, in third grade just sits in another room – yes with other child who decided the same, but as the gentlemen before me spoke, he said that you are the officials and you are people that speak for us and even though you get instruction from above – but I suspect if you push back you may have people behind you.

Jeff Monge, 388 Huguenot Avenue – I haven't been herein a while. I had to work. I kind of miss you guys. As it pertains to PARCC. I had my two kids opt out – 5<sup>th</sup> grader as many of you know with special needs – and I have a 7<sup>th</sup> grader at Kawameeh. The 5<sup>th</sup> grader who is in GNT – missed three weeks of GNT along with many special debacles came back after all of the changing and all of the craziness that had happened the love of the test. The same situation with my son at Kawameeh and one of things he had to rush the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of testing because we had them in the lunch room while his actual classes were going on his English classes taking the test had him sitting in the lunch and they found out it was a mistake because not enough direction – safety proposal from our principal – he could have gone to both classes instead of sitting for hours in the classroom when the tests were not even being given because the system was down but that was rectified but there was organized confusion. One of things that I came here about last time I asked a question that Dr. Lishak had answered – I made a big point of the lack of technology or computers or the like, proposed PARCC test and the answer that I was provided that there wouldn't be any stoppage. I heard going into PARCC people were not being able to have computers for computer type classes because PARCC and now most I'm hearing now from teachers that it has actually happened - students did not have access to computers and the technology and missed instruction due to PARCC test so that seemed that it did necessary happened and hope would not happen. I see that as we continue on my biggest thing, I have been part of the Township of Union PARCC advocacy group, a bunch of parents who got together to try to educate parents or what the pluses and minuses of taking the PARCC. Our biggest frustration for us as the parent who voted you guys in, it is us against them - I personally

know people on the Board as friends so I know that is not the case. Specifically perception ends up being king because when we can't put the board of education in the front of parents to have an open dialogue that is a problem. When we had a situation like this when we can talk, you can hear, but you can't talk back or when we have parents we had workshops but we had parents in the room, but we can't get board of education folks to comment – the Superintendent to comment and Dr. Lishak to come and have open dialogue I think that is a problem. I know that is not the intention I know everyone is walking a fine line by once again perception is king and going into this thing it is very important to have that dialogue, especially as a parent of a special needs kid we went to an updated IEP base for the test. I recognized who opted out who assigned the IEP because there is too much information to put in, bring in, when you have a PARCC as IEP. All the other parents who signed and some who didn't sign, I think personally it was not fair to them and their children. There is something definitely wrong when you have a test that is suppose to prepare kids to go to college, with special needs kids, that unfortunately won't have the opportunity to go to college. Thank you for the opportunity.

Mr. Tyler Needle, I am an AP Physics teacher at Union High School. I do want to preface with the fact that the board of education in addition to our school administration in addition to the supervisors in addition to my colleagues and most importantly the students, I have been unbelievably supportive in promoting and the growing of the physics program in my four years here. What is happening with PARCC is totally inconsistent with that devotion that we set up. When I originally got here four years ago there was 15 students. Next year we will have 85 and that is not me that is the entire community identifying what is important to our community. As such, I have been fortunate enough to have a computer lab for a classroom where students have access to the technology necessary for college level physics and college level sciences. With PARCC I have been displaced from my room like many others. Some accommodations have been made but the biggest thing that lacks in the class is the laboratory experiments. I was only able to complete one lab experiment in the month of March in an AP physics class. That is not...this does not follow the curriculum I should have at least three. But moving around from class to class within the building, we can do – physics was taught well before computers were ever invented. We work to get this stuff and to take it away from students once you have become accustomed to it - it is much different than trying to teach them 50 years ago – when this wasn't ever an option. I do really want to stress that there is another option – we are not technology prepared to administer PARCC without it seeking 40 days which is 5 days shorter of an entire marking period – this is a quarter of a year gone for just for one test. We have to go back to pen and paper – it is not us against them - that is very important. I don't think any of us coming up to speak believe it's a punishment or something coming down from the top. We are all in this together and I think it – it has been successful and it has been – it is in spite of technology not because of it. We are getting through this because everybody has worked beyond their contracts beyond what they are expected to do to make sure because we don't have a choice we have to make it work; but there are other options. Either we need to make sure we are technology prepared next year or it has to be pen and paper. This cannot happen again. Despite it working and getting through it, it cannot repeat next year.

Doris D'Alia, 411 Scott Court, Union High School librarian and Jefferson School librarian. I just wanted to say how PARCC has affected, especially Union High, but it also affected other libraries. We were not only closed for the month of March where students could

not come in to do research – we were closed from December on for teachers being trained to do PARCC or students practicing to do PARCC. We were not allowed to have as many afterschool things because of the way things were set up. We were not able to have students come in. Your board meeting could not be held in the library. So I just wanted to make sure you understand we were very much affected from this PARCC test.

#### MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Moved by Mr. Nufrio, seconded by Mr. Salcedo 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. 10:4-2(b) student and personnel matters. 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 interest 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: Dr. Francis, Mr. Galante, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Layden, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Nufrio, Mr. Salcedo, Mrs. Zuena, Mr. Arminio

NAY: none

ABSTAIN: none

MOTION WAS CARRIED

#### MOTION TO RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION:

There being no further business before the board it was moved by Ms. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Nufrio that the board return to public session. All present voting Yes. MOTION WAS CARRIED

#### MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. Arminio stated before we adjourn – I have one question. Dr. Francis said we should respond to comments from people – if you respond to one then we open up a can of worms with other issues. What if someone comes and talks about the Principal at Burnet and they talk about the problem at Burnet and they say I want your answer – like that guy did – he wanted an answer about the air conditioning – how are we going to answer him about air conditioning. Dr. Francis stated I would answer – and I would say that I went to Battle Hill and we didn't have air conditioners and I survived. Mr. Arminio stated we know that there is no air conditioning, we know it's hot – but we don't have facts to give him. Mrs. Zuena asked a question regarding kids with asthma. Dr. Lishak stated that you only have accommodations if you are a 504 and it's medically...

Mr. Galante stated that there has to be some give and take. Mr. Arminio stated that is why we have it at the work session. Mr. Galante stated that we need to respond at a certain point – in the past there have been instances on whatever topics – and we were told we are not at liberty to discuss that right now.

Dr. Francis stated that after everyone is finished saying their comments at certain times I think that you can say or anyone of us – but you mainly – you can say address some of their issues – but they can't come back up to respond – they already had their comment – you just want to say...for example, the last meeting we had the parent came in with husband they were

upset her daughter was attacked in the bathroom, which it wasn't true, it was a fight in the bathroom and that her older daughter was still in here and she is fine – and she is so afraid and why are you not pulling out the older – I think for us to say or at least Mr. Tatum to say hey listen we did offer such and such something or maybe you can say Jim...Mr. Damato stated that I wanted to make a comment after that – Dave and I had this conversation, and I would have made some comments to her – but you have to be very careful in that situation not to say anything that would be considered a public record or I'm sorry a pupil record about that individual child. I am sure I can figure it out and get something out there at least to get the board feel like something is being done. Make a general statement.

Mr. Arminio stated that at the worksession I always...there is always give and take because it is a worksession.

Dr. Lishak stated what I'm thinking today that the fact that we couldn't respond – one person from the public in particular from the public came up and made a couple of comment that were absolutely incorrect – I really could have corrected tonight – no you can't take the test on paper – no all computer base classes did go on – a class that sometimes uses computers was displaced – a computer class was not.

Ms. Jackson stated that maybe they shouldn't ask questions – they should give opinions and let it be known that you can't – ask questions, you can give your opinion. Mr. Damato stated that is what Dave said. Mr. Arminio stated I did say that. Ms. Jackson stated that maybe every time that they come up – that disclaimer should be given – we are not going to answer questions – this is your opportunity – if you want to ask any questions come to our worksessions. Mr. Nufrio stated that could be said. Mrs. Zuena stated that before every meeting...Ms. Jackson stated right before public comments is opened up by Dave maybe that statement and eventually or it may have to be ongoing but once you have one question then you have an answer...Mrs. Zuena stated it could go on forever. Ms. Jackson stated and that we still have to do this. Mrs. Zuena stated that they can come to the worksession and get their question answered. Dr. Francis stated that at the very end when there is no more to say – that we can address – I would like to say, I am not a fan of the PARCC, my boys did take the tests – I didn't fear them doing bad on the test – this is the reality – we have to follow what the State says or jeopardize losing funding and be honest and say that is like \$31 million. Mr. Salcedo stated that the gentleman who was complaining about the air conditioning becomes a question. So if we lose funding what do we do about the air conditioning. Dr. Francis stated to the teachers are we laying some of you guys off. Mr. Salcedo stated we are in negotiations. Mr. Arminio stated where were all those teachers Saturday when they showed the film “Standardized” – I was there watching the film, I was there asking questions for the board, as a board representative to the panel. Mr. Nufrio stated are there a possibility of portable air conditioners for the school. Mr. Tatum stated that is one possibility.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:**

There being no further business before the board, it was moved by Ms. Jackson, seconded by Mr. McDowell that the meeting be adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

**AYE:** Dr. Francis, Mr. Galante, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Layden, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Nufrio, Mr. Salcedo, Mrs. Zuena, Mr. Arminio

**NAY:** none

**ABSTAIN:** none

**MOTION WAS CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted,

**JAMES J. DAMATO  
BOARD SECRETARY**