

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 October 15, 2013 at 7 p.m. at the Union High School Library, North Third Street, Union, New Jersey 07083

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Township of Union was held at Union High School Library, North Third Street, Union, New Jersey on October 15, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. pursuant to notice sent to each member.

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL: Mr. David Arminio, Dr. Guy Francis, Mrs. Linda Gaglione, Mr. Richard Galante, Mr. Thomas Layden, Mr. Vito Nufrio and Mr. Francis Perkins

ABSENT AT ROLL CALL: Ms. Susana Cooley and Mrs. Versie McNeil

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

Mr. Damato 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 Secretary.

COMMUNICATIONS:

REQUEST FOR FEE WAIVER – HOLY SPIRIT SCHOOL

Lori Volturo, Holy Spirit School Sports Coordinator submitted a request for fee waiver for use of district gymnasium.

REQUEST FOR MATERNITY LEAVE, UNPAID LEAVE AND EXTENDED CHILD REARING LEAVE – DIAZ

Megan Diaz, teacher at Livingston Elementary School, submitted a request for maternity leave, unpaid family leave and extended child rearing for the period November 11, 2013 through May 8, 2016.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION (RETIREMENT) – MAYO

Janice Mayo, secretary at Union High School, submitted a letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective January 1, 2014.

REQUEST FOR FEE WAIVER – CROSSROADS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Pastor Tom Sigley of Crossroads Christian Fellowship, 2815 Morris Avenue, Union, New Jersey submitted a request for fee waiver for use of Battle Hill School gymnasium during the months of January, February and March, 2014.

REQUEST FOR UNPAID SICK LEAVE – BETHEA

Georgia Bethea, cafeteria/playground assistant at Franklin School starting September 9, 2013

LETTER OF RESIGNATION – CAMPOS

Lisette Campos, 1:1 aide at Battle Hill Elementary School, submitted a letter of resignation, effective October 11, 2013.

REQUEST FOR EXTENDED CHILD REARING LEAVE – SEMON

Jillian Semon, math teacher at Burnet Middle School, submitted a request for extended child rearing leaving leave, for the period November 25, 2013 through the end of the 2013-2014 school year.

REQUEST FOR EXTENDED CHILD REARING LEAVE – GALANTE

Krystal Galante, resource room teacher at Battle Hill School, submitted a request for extended child rearing leave, for the period November 25, 2013 through the end of the 2013-2014 school year.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION (RETIREMENT) – COLLURA

Patricia Collura, Clerk at Union High School, submitted a letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective November 1, 2013.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION (RETIREMENT) – KLIMCHOCK

Cynthia Klimchock, teacher at Franklin School, submitted a letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective July 1, 2014.

REQUEST FOR MATERNITY LEAVE AND UNPAID FAMILY LEAVE – COCO

Lauren Coco, teacher at Hannah Caldwell School, submitted a request for maternity and unpaid family leave for the period November 25, 2013 through April 30, 2014.

REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF RENTAL FEES – VAUXHALL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Alphonse Leak, President of Vauxhall Historical Society submitted a request for waiver of rental fees to use Jefferson School to hold a program on Saturday, November 9, 2013 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to honor veterans from Vauxhall community.

PRESENTATIONS:

Review of Running Start Summer Program and recognition of parent volunteers who assisted with the program – Mr. Matthews the coordinator of the Running Start Summer Program acknowledged volunteer parents who helped with this program as follows: Brian Cooley, Sabrina Rodriguez, Jim Jensen, Danida Dyer, Nicole Yapinzenski, Christine Grulon, The Pentz Family, Anunciata Scott, Virginia Quinn and Flavia Herodina.

Mr. Matthews said that he surveyed parents at the end of the program and he gave the results of the survey. He said that he would take the results into consideration if the program was to be run again next summer.

Mr. Matthews presented a slide show of some of the activities that took place during the program.

Mr. Matthews wanted to thank Rosemary Nardo, the nurse who worked the Running Start Program. He said that she was more than a "right arm" through the process and she helped out in every conceivable way. Mr. Matthews said that even though the slide show showed many non-academic activities that took place during this program, but he assured the public that there were also many academic activities that took place. He said that the students were excited about attending this program.

Dr. Martin thanked Mr. Matthews for all of his hard work. He said that the students had a wonderful time.

Recognition of Summer Vocabulary Game Winners – Dr. Martin said that during the summer, posted in front of the administration building there was a vocabulary game going on. He said that every three, four or five days another vocabulary word; twenty all together and the rules to the game were on the district website. Dr. Martin said that students had to write down the posted word, get the definition of the word and use the word in a sentence. He said at the end of the contest the students would have had twenty words that they mailed in to the Superintendent's Office and the names of the students who returned entries were put in a hat for a \$50 first prize drawing. Dr. Martin said that the winner of the \$50 – first prize was Christian Goburn; the second place prize was awarded to AnnMarie Langan and she received a \$20 prize and Vincent Langan was chosen for the third place prize and he received a \$10 prize. He thanked all of the students who participated in this game.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Presentation of 2012-2013 Vandalism and Violence Report – Dr. Martin said that Superintendents throughout the state each year are asked to read in public the Violence and Vandalism statistics which took place in the preceding year. He said that he had good news. Dr. Martin said that as he read the statistics for 2012-2013, he would also read the statistics from the 2011-2012 school year. He said that these statistics should be kept as low as possible. Dr. Martin said that through the hard work of the guidance counselors, administrators, faculties and staffs throughout the district the numbers have come down considerably. He read the report a copy of which is appended to these minutes. Dr. Martin said that overall the statistics are very encouraging and it has everything to do not only with the district faculty, staff and all the students but with the tremendous connection that the district has with the families in the district that support the school so well. He said that working together, the district is keeping the negative numbers low, which is good news; he said that he would never be satisfied until every number was zero and that is the goal.

Dr. Martin said that at 5:30 before this meeting there was a ceremony to recognize the students who achieved a perfect score on the State Standardized Test either in mathematics, language arts or science. He said that the number of tests that were perfect scores were 194 compared with 141 from last year which is an increase of 53 tests. Dr. Martin said that everyone should applaud the elementary and middle schools for the fine work that they did.

Dr. Martin said that the total number of students in grades 3 through 8 who actually got a perfect score on one or more tests was 180 students as compared with 137 students in the 2011-2012 school year and 131 students last year. He said that it was a pleasure for him to see the auditorium filled with parents and other family members who came to recognize the achievement of these fine young people.

Dr. Martin said that there are a number of students who have achieved perfect scores two years in a row and there are also a group of students that have achieved it three years in a row. He said that these students were also recognized this evening.

Dr. Martin said that another statistic that he wanted to bring to the public's attention was regarding attendance for both students and staff. He said that he spoke to parents at Back to School Nights about when students are in school, the district has the opportunity to teach them, but if they are not in school for whatever reason, it is much more difficult. Dr. Martin said that if a student is sick, he or she should not be in school but for any other reason, students should be in school and they should get to school on time. He said that for the month of September the student attendance was 97.686% which is an improvement from last year when it was 97.189%, which is up almost $\frac{1}{2}$ a percentage point. Dr. Martin congratulated parents and students because it can only help students to be in school because education is important. He thanked parents for making that extra effort. Dr. Martin said that the staff attendance for the month of September was 97.234% compared with 96.675% last year which is an approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of a percentage point increase. He congratulated Mr. Capodice, president of the U.T.E.A. and all of his members for an excellent start to the school year.

Mr. Perkins said that it was clear that district students and staff want to come to school. He said that since he has been on the board he has made a special area of his interest in the security of the school buildings. Mr. Perkins said that research points out that school climate is more important than virtually any other consideration with regard to safe schools. He said that it was pretty obvious that school climate and morale in this district was really high and does contribute to the security and safety of all of the students and staff.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Mr. Perkins said that he knew that the majority of the people present at the meeting were interested in speaking about the Middle School Academy and Dr. Martin's letter to parents. He said that there are several items on the agenda which relate to that; they are P-6 which talks about the staffing of the Middle School Academy which had heretofore been scheduled to start tomorrow; P-21 which addresses the staffing of the High School Academy and one of the field trips that was submitted for board consideration was a trip to Philadelphia by the Middle School Academy program. Mr. Perkins said that those three items require the board's attention this evening. He said that Dr. Martin issued a letter on Friday of last week indicating that the Middle School Academy would be postponed. Mr. Perkins said that he spoke to Dr. Martin earlier in the evening and he will offer some explanation of why that is so and then, the board will accept public comments on those items on the agenda which pertain to the Middle School Academy.

Dr. Martin gave a brief history of where the district is regarding the Academy program. He said that this summer when he discussed the proposed Fall Academy program with the board he indicated that it would have a similar form as it has had in the past three years in that

the students would come to school for twenty days before and after school for an additional class and then this year, the students would travel to Philadelphia for an overnight trip. Dr. Martin said that for this Fall Academy the form would be speech and debate plus current events in the morning session and during the afternoon session the students would learn about the stock market and read the book *1776, The Play* in preparation for going to Philadelphia. He said that this year there was also a new program that was proposed for the 9th graders at the high school (many of whom had attended the middle school academy) and the students had asked for a continuation of the program at the high school. Dr. Martin said that the idea was discussed in the summer and he proposed giving to students who are on free lunch status, a complete scholarship would be extended to the Academy and if a student had reduced lunch status, would only be responsible to pay ½ of the tuition amount. He said that this resolution was approved by the board.

Dr. Martin said that he spoke to all middle school students and three weeks ago, he conducted a parent meeting regarding the Academy. He said that he proposed that students who were interested in attending the academy would have to attend two morning lectures on the Wednesday and Thursday following the parent meeting; these lectures took place at 7:10 a.m. and only students who attended these lectures would be considered to attend the Academy program; also students had to submit a 150 word essay from each student on why they wanted to be considered for admission to the Academy. Dr. Martin said that he was really not sure how many students would really make the effort to attend these lectures and write the essays. He said that he was also interested in finding out if students who had free lunch status would be really serious about attending the Academy. Dr. Martin said that he was amazed that there were about 325 students who initially expressed interest in the academy and he thought that number might drop with the requirement of attending the lectures and submitting the writing sample. He said that out of the 325 students 312 actually came on the two mornings and turned in the writing assignment.

Dr. Martin said that the applications for the Academy started to come in and this brings us up to last week. He said that there was some concern that was brought to his attention because there seemed to be an increase in free and reduced lunch applications at the middle school level being sent in and there was a feeling that some of the applications may not have been legitimate. Dr. Martin said that this concerned him because this is not what the purpose of the idea of the program was. He said that in his mind he felt that if an individual did file an erroneous application and an audit was done which found that applications were not filed appropriately and the student was not qualified for free or reduced lunch and they were enrolled in the Academy, he felt that he could just give the parents a bill for \$175 for the Academy. Dr. Martin said that the \$175 covers twenty days of Academy classes, the trip to Philadelphia and an Academy shirt; he said that the district does not make any money on the Academy. He said that during his time as Superintendent, his feeling about the families in Union is very good. Dr. Martin said that he felt pretty secure that if anything should happen, the district would get the money. He said that there was an e-mail that was circulated to him and the Board of Education members on last Thursday which caused him a great amount of concern because the e-mail said that if someone did file a false application that would constitute "double fraud". Dr. Martin said this meant it would be fraud because the person was requesting free or reduced lunch, when it was not appropriate and there also would be a second fraud because they would be able to attend the Academy at no cost for filing false paperwork. He said that the problem was the word "fraud" because fraud is a crime and if a

family was going to be looked on as committing double fraud for enrolling a student and then it was found out subsequently that the paperwork was wrong, he was very uncomfortable with anybody being "tagged" or "labeled" with a double fraud allegation. Dr. Martin said that no one loves the Academy idea more than he does but he was not going to encourage anyone to get them into a situation where they are in a double fraud allegation, he did not think that was right and he did not want anyone to get in trouble. He said that he would rather do what he did on Friday than to watch anyone get in trouble. Dr. Martin said that on Friday he spoke with Mr. Vieira, the Business Administrator about possibly postponing everything for two weeks and in those two weeks an audit could be done to get all of the applications straight and then the Academy would proceed. He said that it turns out that the audit process could take upwards of 30 days or more because there is a prescribed procedure that must be followed. Dr. Martin said that he made the decision to just postpone the whole thing rather than anyone getting in trouble. He said that he would rather make sure that the people who made new applications for free or reduced lunch were thoroughly looked out before the Academy begins. Dr. Martin said that if the district began giving services to the students and then it was determined that an individual student was not eligible for free or reduced lunch, the parent would have to pay the fee.

Dr. Martin said if anyone was to ask him of the 312 students that were enrolled in the Academy how many were enrolled filing for free or reduced lunch this year; the number that he got earlier today was 25; broken down as 15 free and 10 reduced. He said that 15 free lunch students at \$175 per student would be \$2,625 and the 10 reduced would be \$875, equaling \$3,500. Dr. Martin said that even if all 25 were fraudulent, the costs would be \$3,500. He said that he has been told that there are more than the 25 but even if that number were doubled, the cost would be \$7,000, and he said that this amount is spent in one day on substitute teachers in the district. Dr. Martin said that he was very open to looking at ways in which the situation can be corrected because he would like to safeguard the district regarding the fraud situation. Dr. Martin apologized for any inconvenience that this has caused the families; he knew how excited the students were and it blew his mind that 312 students in the district were willing to get up early in the morning and stay after school for twenty days. He told the story of a student at one of the middle schools who was always in trouble but this year he wanted to be a part of the Academy and he attended the two morning classes and did the writing assignment in order to get accepted to the program. Dr. Martin said that this was very important to all of us because this student was going down the wrong road and could have become a negative statistic and knowing that he wanted to attend the Academy and change his ways was worth every effort that the district was putting into this program.

Mr. Perkins said that he was the one who wrote the memo regarding the spike in the applications for free and reduced lunch. He said that what many in the town do not know is that in the spring of 2011, the board was cited by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for failure to properly administer the free and reduced lunch program. Mr. Perkins said that the district had an audit which lasted several weeks by a federal agent; at the conclusion of which this district was required to amend its review processes for free and reduced lunch applications and submit them for approval to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He said that the district employed a consultant who came in and went through the process of reviewing every application looking at the procedures and practices that the district used; individuals were trained in processing the applications and the district was fined \$20,000 for not properly administering an application process in the first place. Mr. Perkins said that this is why he has a

high sensitivity on his part and the part of anyone who looks at this, with respect to the application process for free and reduced lunch. He said that he learned on Thursday that there was a spike in these applications and thought it was coincidence. He said that the numbers, the identities and the correlation with applications is still under investigation. Mr. Perkins said that from Thursday until today is not a lot of time to do an investigation but he assured everyone that the investigation was continuing. He said that it is a crime to knowingly submit an application that is false with respect to federal funds; i.e. free and reduced lunch. Mr. Perkins said that the money involved is not material and he said that there have been some members of school boards in other districts who were removed from office and indicted for filing false applications for free and reduced lunch. He said that one of the things that he and Dr. Martin talked about was that it was urgent because of the spike that an investigation be done as soon as possible. Mr. Perkins said that the consultant came back on short notice and pointed out that the district is responsible to verify the applications for cause in accordance with the regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and that is why he wrote the memo. He said that Dr. Martin then concluded that it was best that the academy be postponed until the matter is straightened out. Mr. Perkins said that the investigation will continue and over the next 30 to 60 days review applications and where it is determined that there is a false application, knowingly or conclude that it may be knowingly, the district will take the appropriate action under the guidelines of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and that which by law the district is required to do. He said that he does not want to see the auditors come back into the district to go through a whole other process and a devotion of time and effort on the district's part. Mr. Perkins said that the next time that this happens, the district will not be fined \$20,000 it will be considerably more he was sure. He said that was the story regarding the "alleged" double fraud and he felt that the board would be remiss in not taking this action.

Mr. Nufrio said that he was doubly confused at this moment. He asked Mr. Perkins with regard to the information disclosed as to the penalty that the district was assessed, the \$20,000, this was the first time that he was hearing of it. Mr. Nufrio said that he would like the public to know that the district did not process those applications and he recalled at the time that the question was posed, he insisted on asking for a review of all applications because he wanted to be sure that the district would not be falling into the same "situation" as the other school district which was alluded to earlier. He said that the district went through the process and it did cost the district money. Mr. Nufrio said that he had also recommended that any penalties, fees or any monies that were to be disbursed to review all of the applications, should be presented to the individuals who processed the applications. He said that there was a contractual agreement with the company who provides the food for the district, for them to process the applications. Mr. Nufrio said that it was only fair that this issue be revisited. He said at the time he was told to wait until the district sees how much it will cost to hire a consultant to review the applications and what the "fine" is before any action would be taken. Mr. Nufrio said that the district paid the consultant a great deal of money but now that he knows that amount of money that the district was "fined" he was asking Mr. Damato to revisit that request in terms of discussing some type of settlement with that company. He did not feel that the taxpayers of the community should be shouldering the expense that it took to rectify errors or omissions by the individuals who originally reviewed those applications. Mr. Nufrio asked Dr. Martin how the submission of an application translates into stopping an entire program as he felt it was a clear case of worrying about the few who may have possibly presented fraudulent information. He said that if this is the case, those who submitted the applications are already in trouble if they submitted fraudulent information; not just with the

double jeopardy that Dr. Martin alluded to but there are federal laws and guidelines that govern these funds. Mr. Nufrio said that the district would be in the same situation as other districts who have wrongful applications and as such, would have to process them for filing fraudulent applications. He said that this does not justify the other 275 students who really want to be in the program. Mr. Nufrio said that it was impossible for him to process this because the resolution to establish the academy was passed by the board. He said that if the board was going to take Dr. Martin's recommendations, act on them and then have Dr. Martin do something with his executive power, it made him feel like he was in Washington.

Dr. Martin said that when he wrote the letter he did check with Mr. Perkins about the contents of the letter and if in the course of the discussions tonight there is a decision that is made to go ahead with the program that is fine. He said that he would be delighted by that because he really wanted this program for the children but he wanted to be very careful because starting the program tomorrow would have meant that students would have been receiving services and there was a clear concern that was voiced to him that there may be fraudulent activity going on. Dr. Martin said that he wanted to slow it down and make sure that the district was doing the right thing and if he was overly cautious, then he was guilty of that.

Mr. Nufrio said that it does not change the fact that the applications were submitted. He asked if any of the applications were recalled by the individuals who filed them. Mr. Nufrio said that making a fraudulent application is nothing compared to what individuals can encounter with committing a fraud with the federal government. He said that he disagreed with pausing and completing the investigation because 275 children are being held "hostage".

Mr. Arminio asked Mr. Damato if the district has all of the students pay and then those who are eligible for free or reduced scholarship money, have the money be set aside and then rebated to the families at the end of the investigation to solve any problem that might arise other than the fact that a fraudulent application was submitted.

Mr. Damato said that there are an awful lot of rules associated with the free and reduced lunch program and Mr. Vieira and Mr. Tatum work with this program every day. He said that he would defer the question to either of them to see if it would be permissible under the rules.

Mr. Vieira said that Mr. Arminio's proposal for all academy students to pay the tuition up front but if their families are eligible for free or reduced lunch, they may be unable to pay the tuition. Mr. Nufrio said that was never a criteria for the academy in the past and it should not be a criteria now. He said that all parents paid last year. Mr. Nufrio said that Mr. Arminio's premise was excellent because the board is changing the whole picture and the whole concept by saying that because there may be a possibility of fraudulent applications, the board should take a step back. He said that fraudulent applications must be dealt with because this is a Title I program and there are federal laws that may have been violated. Mr. Nufrio said that the criteria was never that before, the board simply wanted to do something for those students and he was actually one of the people who proposed the concept but he had a different direction that he was going in and he was quickly told that it could not be done that way and that was fine and he understood that. He said that the proposal by Dr. Martin was to give some aid to the students of families that could not or who were already under the Title I consideration but that was not the criteria in the past and certainly Mr. Arminio's idea is to simply continue what

was done in the past. Mr. Nufrio said that students would have to pay and if they are eligible, they will be reimbursed. He did not see where there would be any problem with that because it is still the same money.

Mr. Perkins said that one of the difficulties that the district got into was that the board could not sit idly by and watch a fraud occur even if it is suspected. He said that the point of the audit was the obligation of the board to enforce the federal law and in fact when an anomaly is presented, the board is obligated under the law to do an investigation. Mr. Perkins said that it was not a case of it being between the individual who fills out a false application and the federal government but the board is obligated under the federal rules to do certain things. He said that when the board has reason to believe that there may be, and the correlation is between applications for admissions into the academy and applications for free and reduced lunch, not a parent saying "it is the beginning of school and I cannot afford the lunch" it is "Now I can get a \$175 scholarship by doing this". Mr. Perkins said that the board is obligated to follow through on the investigation. He said that the board cannot look at this and pretend that there is no anomaly here; he said that it cannot be looked at as a reasonable person and say "I really should take a hard look at it" and particularly when a federal agency is saying to the district, "You are obligated under the law to do so."

Mr. Nufrio said that is why Mr. Arminio's recourse makes sense. Mr. Perkins said that the problem with this from his point of view is the problem he has with paying tuition and there being a limitation on the affordability of it. He said that he already received an e-mail from a person who said that she had a daughter who she would like to get into the program but she could not afford the money and she did not qualify for free or reduced lunch. Mr. Perkins said that this means that the people who are paying are underwriting the cost to others who are putting in applications. He said that admittedly there has been no determination that any of the applications are fraudulent; they may all be legitimate but one has to wonder.

Mr. Nufrio said that he was talking about why people file applications for free or reduced lunch. He said that certainly that translates into a much larger amount of money that the recipients would be receiving in terms of lunch. Mr. Nufrio said that this is something that the board added to the concept, if a student "qualified" for free or reduced lunch. He said that if the answer was "no" it is because the data that was presented was false or inaccurate; not necessarily criminally intended or willfully done; but it should still not impede what the original concept of the academy, that the entire board voted to approve. Mr. Nufrio said that he was very serious how the board has attached an extension to that particular concept but it is really not part of the concept because the applications were for free or reduced lunch, not for the academy. He said that the board needs to discuss this further and the academy needs to be separated from the lunch applications and Mr. Arminio's recommendation is well founded. Mr. Nufrio said that if a student does not qualify, then Mr. Tatum can do what he has to do through the appeals process which takes time. He said that the program went forward last year and he wondered how many students who were on free or reduced lunch participated. Mr. Nufrio said that the issue is that the board has attached a caveat to something that did not have one. He said that he still said that the numbers tell the story. Mr. Nufrio said that the board was holding up 275 or more students who have shown a sincere desire to be a part of the program. He said that the board should be for the students and not for the families that who may have submitted fraudulent applications; not that he did not care but that was their problem. Mr.

Nufrio said that they would have bigger worries to be concerned about rather than the \$175 or the \$87.50 for academy tuition.

Mr. Tatum said that he was not 100% sure about the answer to the proposal that was made by Mr. Arminio because he was not sure if reimbursement is permitted to someone who has filed a fraudulent application but he could tell everyone that once an application has been filed, the application is taken according to federal law at face value which means that the application is on file and if it is found that if a child has qualified for free or reduced lunch, they are eligible for free or reduced lunch and for every benefit that the district attaches to that particular determination. He said that the problem that the district finds itself in is that the applications that are not on file now, can be audited but the issue is the students would qualify for whatever programs or benefits that the district attach to free and reduced lunch. Mr. Tatum said that he thought what Mr. Nufrio is trying to get across is that unfortunately the board did this to try to help students and it kind of backfired on the district. He said that until the district has the opportunity to do the proposed verification, the district is in a bind and would have to entitle those children to that benefit because qualification has been attached to that benefit. Mr. Tatum said that everyone also needs to be aware that a "for cause" verification can be done as quickly as the information is received. He said that for those people who are forthright and would come in and bring the documentation that is required, it could be a very expedient process but for those individuals who have determined that they will not comply, that were the additional 30 days may come into play. Mr. Tatum said that 30 days is guaranteed to individuals who are being audited under federal regulations. He said that this is the dilemma that the district finds itself in right now. Mr. Tatum said that however the board determines that it would be best to rectify the matter is solely up to the board but he was not so sure about the reimbursement to students who qualify for a benefit that was filed for that was guaranteed by federal regulations.

Mr. Nufrio thanked Mr. Tatum for the clarification because the board is not looking at it in an entirely different way. He said that if, technically, by the standards, laws or regulations the student qualifies until the application is verified, then the program can begin and at the time that any individuals are discovered to have a fraudulent application, those individuals have bigger things to be concerned about and they can easily be removed from the program. Mr. Nufrio said that until then whatever monies have been paid by the parents would have to be reimbursed because that has nothing to do with Title I money; he said that the reimbursement could be prorated however it would be decided and the child would have to leave the program.

Mr. Perkins said that one of the difficulties that the board has is everyone is trying to "practice law". Mr. Nufrio said that he took offense to that statement as he was not trying to "practice law" but he was just simply stating facts, facts that have even more clearly been defined by Mr. Tatum. He said that he had forty years experience in this field. Mr. Nufrio said that he felt like he was fighting a "brick wall" when it comes to trying to present his expertise in the field and he had to be referred to as "practicing law". Mr. Perkins said that his point was that this required significant research. He said that the district received an opinion letter on a two day notice from a consultant and clearly he was not familiar with the details of the law. Mr. Nufrio said that he did not think that any further research needed to be done but he felt that further detail was required.

Mrs. Gaglione said that she has been a proponent of the academy and she did fight for it "tooth and nail" in the beginning. She said she made her case and the program went forward on an "experimental" basis. Mrs. Gaglione said that the board was very pleased with the results on a "paid" program basis. She said that a few weeks ago, some of the new items came up and as most people know, she has been on the fiscal committee for 9-1/2 years. Mrs. Gaglione said that when the matter was discussed and the board first talked about how it would get the funds, she took issue with it because when a budget is being "built", dollar amounts must be determined for each and every item on the budget. She said that she has been in contract negotiations during her entire time on the board as well as being on the residency committee and have sat in many hearings regarding people who want to come into the district and who are not residents. Mrs. Gaglione said that her concern is not only for the students in the district but also the teachers, administrators and for the citizens of the Township who have to pay the taxes. She said that when the new criteria for the academy was first discussed with the amount of money that the district could possibly be responsible to pay for the students on free and reduced lunch, no one could come up with any "numbers". Mrs. Gaglione thought it was unfair to put on Mr. Vieira, who has to manage the budget, to have him come up with money from the budget to cover the cost of the program, whether it be \$2,000 or \$10,000. She said that the board really did not know the exact amount of money that would be required to cover this program. She said that Mrs. Lipstein and her organization has offered, in the past, to give scholarships to those children that had wanted to participate in the academy but whose families could not afford the tuition. Mrs. Gaglione said that when the board discussed the matter in the summer, she was uncomfortable with the procedures or the policy that the district was going to use to "pick and choose" children to attend the program. She said that at that time she voted "no" for the academy and she was the only one on the board that did vote "no" because she felt it was unfair because the program was not included in this year's budget because the program was to be on a "paid" basis. Mrs. Gaglione said that regardless of the amount of money that will be put in for the free and reduced students, if the board says that by including the academy program in the budget it means that teachers will have to laid off or other programs must be removed, then she has to take issue with the amount of money that the district is "pulling from a hat" that it does not have just to have this program go forward. She said that in this sense, she must say "no" to the academy and she would abstain from the votes. Mrs. Gaglione said that she wanted everyone to know the reasoning behind her decision. She thought that the program was great for the students but it is not fair to the taxpayers to pick and choose when someone comes up with a big idea. Mrs. Gaglione said that the district has issues with operations and if there is an emergency in one of the schools, the district would have to find the money in the capital or general fund. She said that the board could not just keep taking money because people come up with "ideas" and pick and choose. Mrs. Gaglione said that if Mrs. Lipstein's organization said that they would fund the entire program but Mrs. Gaglione did not think that Mrs. Lipstein could represent her entire organization and say they would foot the bill for the free and reduced students attending the academy. She said that she did believe in the idea of the academy and she felt that it was a good thing for everyone, but she did not feel, at this time, until the proper procedures and everything is correct, then she felt that the academy should go forward.

Mr. Nufrio said that Mrs. Gaglione had every right and she did exercise her right to say "no" and the vote was based upon what was just said. He said that perhaps there was a way out of this and perhaps after further discussion the board needs to come up with a resolution or a recommendation to void the resolution that had already been previously approved by the

board. Mrs. Gaglione said that she took issue with that because if the other board members heard what she was saying at the previous meeting, the discussion should have been done at that time. Mr. Nufrio said that Mrs. Gaglione's statements were heard but the board did vote to approve the academy at that time. He felt that the board needed to get the facts straight and make sure that everyone is going in the same direction.

Mrs. Lipstein said that she was representing herself at this meeting although she was the President of the Township of Union Education Foundation and one of the co-workers on P.A.C.E. She said that she, as well as all the other parents who were in attendance at the meeting were very upset about the academy being postponed. Mrs. Lipstein said that it seemed to her that the board needs to cut to the chase. She said that \$7,000 to \$15,000 is required to subsidize the academy and she asked the board to meet within the next few days to see if it can come up with a solution. Mrs. Lipstein thought that a solution had to be come up with within two weeks before the academy had to be postponed until the spring and she thought the board really did not want to do that. She thought one solution would be to reach out to the community and there is a petition which has the signatures of over 150 people who want to continue the academy and there are 275 people who have already paid for their students to attend the academy. Mrs. Lipstein thought that if a petition were made to the community that \$15,000 was the goal to keep the academy going that would happen. She said that she would pledge \$175 right now which not easy for her since she is on a fixed income but if that is what will keep the academy going, she was happy to do it. Mrs. Lipstein said that the academy was too important and too special to the community for it not to go forward and the program should not be held hostage for \$15,000. She felt that Mr. Arminio's solution was perfect. Mrs. Lipstein said that she expected an answer from the board within a week's time to let the public know where the board stands on this program.

Mr. Monge asked what the total cost of the academy was. Dr. Martin wanted to know if Mr. Monge meant the cost for the entire program. Mr. Monge only wanted to know the subsidized cost. Dr. Martin thought it was about \$3,500. Mr. Perkins said that is not the "final" total because the investigation is ongoing. He said that of the 312 students enrolled in the academy, 115 students are on free or reduced lunch or have filed applications for free or reduced lunch. Mr. Perkins said that it the approximately 40% of the students enrolled would be eligible for free or reduced lunch. Mr. Monge asked where the 25 students came from. Mr. Perkins said he had no idea. Dr. Martin said that there were individuals who were on free or reduced lunch last year but there were 25 new applications submitted. Mr. Monge said that there is already a verification process. He said that there are students who are presently receiving free or reduced lunch. Dr. Martin said that if Mr. Monge wanted to know how many "new" applications were received, meaning students who never were on free or reduced lunch in the past, there was a "surge" in the number of applications. Mr. Perkins said that was not consistent with the information that he had in front of him. Mr. Monge said that he grew up on free lunch and luckily his child does not have to be on free or reduced lunch. He said that the idea that all of the individuals who filed applications in the "surge" were filing fraudulent applications is absolutely unfortunate. Mr. Monge said that he would write a check to subsidize the cost and those individuals who were not found "guilty" can reimburse him. He said that those who are found "guilty", if the parents are to blame, he would pay for those students to go to the academy. Mr. Monge said that he was sure in the entire budget, the district could find \$3,500 and a program like this is something that should not have to be worried about. He said that this program is producing something and it is growing. Mr. Monge said that his son has

attended the academy every year and he was excited this year when he heard that there would be debate and a class on the stock market included this year. He said that he made a deal with his son that after he completed the program, he would give his son some money to invest in the stock market.

Mr. Monge's son, Lares, said that when he found out that the academy was being cancelled he was very disappointed. He said that he was looking forward to learning about the stock market and debating current events. Lares said that after the academy was over, he and his dad were going to invest money into the stock market. He said that he also wanted to learn how to debate because he needed help with public speaking and he was also looking forward to the trip at the end of the academy. Lares said he hoped that the board would come up with a solution to this problem because he did not feel that it was fair for students to be punished for something that is not their fault.

Mr. Monge said that for the board to say that they would think about it is a tactic to say "no". Dr. Martin said that as far as he was concerned this was not a delay tactic. Mr. Monge said that Dr. Martin reacted to an e-mail that had him question whether some students would be affected and Dr. Martin acted upon it. Mr. Monge asked if the funds in question were federal funds. Mr. Perkins said that free and reduced lunch are federal funds and he felt that a legal opinion was required. Mr. Monge said he did not feel this was a huge issue which would warrant a legal opinion. He said that he would be willing to cover the cost of the students that were going through the process and if the students are verified to be eligible for free or reduced lunch, then his money could be paid back to him. Mr. Monge said that he did not believe that there would be more than five students involved in any fraudulent applications. He said that he would come to the office tomorrow to drop off a check. Mr. Perkins said that he wanted to be clear that if Mr. Monge paid for any students who qualify, he would be refunded the money for those students. Mr. Monge said that was correct and if any of the students did not qualify, his money could be used to fund those students in the program. Mr. Perkins asked Mr. Monge if he would be willing to put that into writing. Mr. Monge said that he would.

Mr. Monge said that whatever solution that the board comes up with, the program should go ahead. Mr. Perkins said that it was his inclination that the board should take a good look at the situation and withdraw resolutions P-6, P-21 and the approval of the field trip to Philadelphia which are listed on tonight's agenda for consideration at a special meeting that will be scheduled within two weeks. He said that during that two weeks the board will have the opportunity to review the legality of what the board is doing and consult attorneys who know the law in this area. Mr. Perkins said that it was Dr. Martin who was the individual who said that the academy should not go forward next week. Dr. Martin said that he wanted the academy to go forward. Mr. Monge said that he felt Dr. Martin was "receiving" from Mr. Perkins. He said that the academy program was something that everyone wanted. Mr. Monge said that he was able to get over 150 signatures on a petition in less than three days.

Mr. Nufrio said that in all fairness to Mr. Monge's comments, he said that Mr. Perkins did vote "yes" for the academy which means that he was in favor of the program. He said that it is a matter of perspective as to how this is being viewed as to whether this program should be a subsection of the academy. Mr. Nufrio said he never thought it should be but it was just a way to help those who could not afford to pay for the academy tuition. He said that as Mr. Tatum pointed out, all applicants are eligible at least during the time of the investigation. Mr. Nufrio

said that Mr. Monge was offering the board an "out" and it was appreciated. He said that this would be part of the discussion to see if the board can get to a consensus on how this is perceived. Mr. Nufrio said that the board wanted the right things for the students. He said that he was on the board to represent the district and he wanted to make sure that his voice was heard.

Mr. LaRosa said that he was a "tuition paying" parent whose child was enrolled in the academy. He said that he heard some solutions from the board and from parents. Mr. LaRosa said that he thought the academy was tied up in legal aspects and this was stopping the 275 students whose parents paid for the academy to attend the program. He said that hearing about budgets, consultants and legal advisors sounded very expensive to him and he suggested that this money be put into the program.

Mary LaRosa was a student at Kawameeh Middle School. She said that she was very excited when she heard there was going to be an academy program for middle schoolers. Mary said that she attended school early on the practice days and she also wrote the required essay for admission to the program. She said that when she was called down into an assembly last Friday, she thought that she would be receiving her uniform for the academy program and she was really excited but when she got to the auditorium, she was informed that the academy was being postponed. Mary said that the students were very upset. She said that after the assembly she was speaking to some of her friends about the academy being postponed. Mary said that the students commented that it wasn't fair since they had done all of the work they were required to do. She said that when she received the acceptance ribbon for the academy, everyone wore it with pride and happily explained it to their classmates. Mary said that the teachers were very impressed with all of the hard work and effort that the academy students had put in. She thought that the academy would be a great experience but she was confused about all of the talk of students being eligible for free or reduced lunch.

Ms. Vieira asked when the board decided to offer the scholarship money, how did someone not realize the possibility that this process would be abused. Dr. Martin said that it was his feeling that if, for any reason, someone did not qualify for free or reduced lunch but did not meet the criteria, the family would be billed for the tuition. He said that his history with the parents in Union has been very good and they would pay the money. Dr. Martin said that the reason that he "stopped short" was the question of "fraud". Ms. Vieira asked how it could be okay that the district does not go forward with the academy for the 275 students because of 25 "bad apples". Dr. Martin said that it has not been determined that 25 families committed fraud as they may all be eligible. He understood the issue but he would rather over react, if that is what he did, to stop any improper action. Ms. Vieira said that she had gotten to know Dr. Martin better since her daughter started middle school and she thought this action was very unlike him. She said it felt like there was something being "hidden". Dr. Martin said that he was still 110% in favor of the academy program.

Ms. Taylor said that some of the questions she had have already been answered but she had a statement that she wished to read to the board.

"The decision to cancel the middle school academy and ninth grade academy is unacceptable. An immediate and complete reversal of this determination is in order. To impose such consequences on the students is not

only unwarranted but I feel it is criminal in nature. It is the understanding of many parents that the full and partial scholarships were offered by the board. As a result, it would be incumbent upon the board to find a satisfactory solution that does not encompass cancellation or postponement of the fall academy session. The perception of intent must be clarified. Is it the intent of the board to communicate to the academy community that the enormous efforts put forth by all participants to launch and support this extremely successful initiative are thought to be insignificant and disposable? Is it the intent of the board to communicate to the academy community that the repeated requests for increased parental involvement are insincere? Is it the intent of the board to convince all academy participants and the school community at large that concerted efforts to unite and effect positive change within the educational system will be discouraged? Is it the intent of the board to suggest that the overwhelming attendance of parents and students at the academy orientation was an abomination? It is the intent of the board to instill the idea that parents are powerless regarding the educational direction of their children? Is it the intent of the board to suggest that the level of socio-economic status is an automatic indicator of disinterest or dishonesty? In speaking with other district parents, the board is not seen as a positive force in many cases. The opinion is that plans are being implemented to dismantle the academy and stifle any future initiatives. The obligation of the board must be to dispel this deception and to consider alternative options to academy postponement. The following questions must be answered: Was there a limit on available amount of scholarships to be dispensed by the board? What are the number of scholarship applications received and the approximate value of the combined full and partial scholarships? Have any attempts been made to secure additional funds from alternate sources in spite of the time constraints? In light of this oversight, can the full and partial scholarship applicants be afforded pre-approval? Can a contract be submitted to the parents in which they would agree to reimburse the district for full tuition if the free or reduced lunch criteria could not be met? The contract would include stipulations and consequences for reimbursement failure. The response to these questions must be delivered without malice. The students must be the recognized priority. Cancellation of the fall academy must not be the final outcome. Any opportunity to promote positive educational stimulation must be seized. Energy must be harnessed to reach a solution that is in sync with the most affected group, the children."

Mr. Nufrio said that Ms. Taylor has made some excellent points but he did want to revisit the fact that the board did vote "yes" on the academy and any changes that occurred thereafter was an executive's decision, not a board decision. Ms. Taylor said that when she said "board" she was generalizing and she felt that there were certain things that she could not say.

Mr. Marchez applauded the board and Dr. Martin for the academy program. He said that he has had the pleasure of working in higher education at a University for the past 14 years. Mr. Marchez said that he saw the need for special programs. He said to have his son want to wake up at 6:10 in the morning because Dr. Martin told him that he could be in the academy program was fantastic. He said to have his son say that he wanted to read an "extra" book was wonderful. Mr. Marchez said that to have his son want to do public speaking and

debating was great. He said that he had a speech impediment and the best class that he ever took was a debate class which prepared him for life. Mr. Marchez begged the board not to let the "bad apples" to stop the program. He suggested that any parents who submitted lunch application after hearing about the academy scholarship program be held off until they have been verified. Mr. Marchez suggested that these parents be on a "payment plan" if they cannot afford the entire tuition up front. He also applauded Mr. Monge for making the offer to put up the funds so that all students could attend the program.

Mr. Perkins said that those individuals who have read the minutes of previous meetings know that he does not question these kinds of comments but the most recent commentator came closest to his previous comments. He wanted to know why it was that the district had a program that required the payment of tuition, when it is the district's obligation to educate an entire community. Mr. Perkins said that the program should not only be available to those who can afford the tuition and not available to others. He said that the problem was that programs had to be "budgeted" for in advance. Mr. Perkins said that it is not only not fair to the students whose parents cannot afford to pay the tuition, he thought it was morally wrong. He said that the school district should develop the program. Mr. Perkins said that the board had to discuss the cost of these types of programs and how the district can make these types of program available to all students; he was particularly concerned about the students who could not afford the tuition. He said that sometimes students don't make it because they do not have a good family background or have people who can encourage them. Mr. Perkins said that all of the parents present tonight do support and encourage their children and he was not terribly worried about these students; he was worried about the students who were not at the meeting tonight. He said that figuring out how to implement these types of program does take some work and some considerable thought to determine how it can be accomplished. He said that a serious issue is the federal law involved which must be considered. Mr. Perkins said that the board of education is a highly regulated organization on many levels. He said that the district must comply with the law and everyone may not understand what the basis for the law is, the district is nonetheless required to obey it. Mr. Perkins said that the Department of Agriculture and the court's take seriously attempts at fraud on the free and reduced lunch program. He said that was only ancillary to this.

Mrs. Gaglione said that when the board has its meetings at the Administration Building, sometimes there is more discussion there than at the regular meeting. She said that when she discussed this issue, she did comment that if the board was going to give children money, regardless of who it is or what the reason behind it was, and if money was going to be taken out of the budget, please just put the money into the classroom so every child can benefit from it. Mrs. Gaglione did not think that the board should only be supporting a "handful" of children. She said that the board needs to focus on the whole picture, every student in the district should benefit from these programs. Mrs. Gaglione wanted to know why some of the things that were being taught in the academy program be put into the general curriculum of the schools.

Mr. Nufrio said that Mr. Perkins has addressed this issue many times and all the board members understood the concern and appreciated that Mr. Perkins wanted to make the academy program available to all children. He said that the board had these discussions and the board voted to implement this academy program. Mr. Nufrio said that there is a resolution that was passed and if there were parts of the resolution that needed to be revisited then the

board should do that and get it done. He was not sure what type of image of the board was being projected to the students.

Mr. Perkins said that there are over 7500 other students in the district who are getting a really good education. He said that no student is being cheated. Mr. Perkins said that the points that Mrs. Gaglione raised are valid points that have been discussed by the board in the past. He pointed out to Mr. Nufrio that his "yes" vote on the academy was conditioned on certain things happening. Mr. Perkins said that he has often asked for the research, background and the analysis for not only this proposal but any proposal and he has rarely gotten it. Mr. Nufrio said in that case, Mr. Perkins should have voted "no". He said that he was not aware that he was able to vote with conditions. Mr. Nufrio said that this issue has been visited and revisited and the resolution was passed.

Ms. Vyas said that she was concerned that parents had to pay for the program; she felt that this should be a part of the curriculum. She suggested that since the board now knows how many students want to attend the academy it should "unlink" the program from the free and reduced lunch program requirement. Ms. Vyas said that she did not want anyone from the community to commit fraud. She said thanks to the generosity of the parents and others in the community, she felt that the program could be successful. Ms. Vyas hoped that the board could come to a solution soon so that the academy could proceed.

Ms. Monge said that it was pretty obvious from sitting in this meeting where certain board members stand on this issue. She said that the board should look at the parents who are in attendance tonight; she said that the academy program meant something to them and their children. Ms. Monge said that if the academy is taken away, the room will not be like this the next time, the attendance will be doubled. She did not mean this as a threat but she meant it as parents who care. Ms. Monge said that the district should not turn their back on those students who are eligible for free or reduced lunch but these students should receive help. She said that she was embarrassed this was taking place because she did not understand why, after something was decided on, now all of a sudden legal issues have arisen. Ms. Monge thought it was an excuse and a delay tactic. She said that the district was stagnant until Dr. Martin came and now there are many positive changes taking place.

Mr. Arminio said that he thought the board could pay for the academy because it was outside the school day. He said that the state has, over the past thirty years, put in more requirements of what has to be taught in the classroom and has taken away the ability for a teacher to spend time on studying the stock market, etc. Mr. Arminio said that he is not taking anything away from what the state is mandating but that is the reason why many of the things taught in the academy are not taught in the regular curriculum because there is no room for it during the regular school day. He said that he knew Mr. Perkins had the absolute right to take something off the agenda for one month or until the next board meeting. Mr. Arminio said that if asked for the academy to be "tabled" and determine a particular day and time that it is tabled to, would that have an impact and is that acceptable. He suggested that the three items be tabled and establish a time and date that the matters be considered. Mr. Perkins said that this is not an item which would call for an emergency meeting. He said that a special meeting can be scheduled within the next 7 to 10 days. Mr. Arminio said if a meeting is set up, what

happens then. Mr. Perkins said that the next step is that the items not voted on tonight would be considered or Dr. Martin will change his mind, give the board the explanation and the board goes for it. Mr. Arminio asked how soon the program could be up and running after that happens.

Ms. Lipstein said that the parents needed an answer within the next two weeks. She said that Dr. Martin told her that he can run the academy if it can begin within the next two weeks.

Mr. Nufrio said that if the board was going to consider Mr. Arminio's recommendation, the board members will be attending the School Board Convention next week. Mr. Perkins said during that time, he felt that Dr. Martin would have significant input with regard to his views. He said that there are significant issues here and one of the issues is that the district is excluding students by virtue of their ability to pay and it was not okay to proceed because it was done in the past. Mr. Perkins said that this year's academy was presented to the board on an experimental basis.

Ms. Taylor said that if Mr. Perkins attended any of the academy sessions he would see the results that the program is making.

Mr. Perkins said that resolution P-6, P-21 and the field trip application for the Philadelphia trip would be removed from voting this evening. He said that these items would be considered at a special meeting to be scheduled within 15 days.

Dr. Francis said that the board voted for this program and if an alternative can be determined on how the additional costs will be funded, why does the vote on the resolutions regarding the academy have to be postponed.

Mr. Perkins said that he was not willing to go forward because he did not have any comprehensive basis upon which to go forward on. He said that it was Dr. Martin who decided to postpone the academy. Mr. Perkins said that he felt it was more than appropriate to allow Dr. Martin and the members of the board to have some exchange of ideas over the next ten (10) days.

Ms. Monge asked how the public would know when the meeting was taking place so that parents could attend. Mr. Perkins said that Mr. Damato is required to provide notice of every meeting of the board. Mr. Damato said that there must be 48 hour notice of a meeting.

Mr. Nufrio asked Mr. Damato when a resolution is passed, he realized that it was not a directive but an approval, but as such didn't any executive decision require board approval, since it was a board decision. Mr. Damato said that typically once the board approves a resolution it is unusual that an administrative decision would override that. He said in this case to support Dr. Martin and if he believes there is suspected fraud and also is not clear about the financial obligation to the board, Dr. Martin is taking prudent steps to put the program on hold and he felt that what Dr. Martin was trying to get across tonight.

Dr. Martin said that he just found out today that the number of new applications was 25. He said that when he had to make the decision last Friday, he did not know how big the number was; he had heard that there was a "surge" in free and reduced lunch applications. Dr. Martin said that he knew the overall number was about 300 students that were involved but he did not know how big the number was. He said that perhaps if he had known that it was 25, he would have made a different decision.

Mr. Perkins said that October 25th is the day after the end of the School Board's Association Convention and he was proposing that the special meeting take place on that date. He said that typically special meetings take place at 8 o'clock in the morning. Mr. Perkins said that anyone from the public can attend and the meeting will be heard at the Administration Building.

Mr. Nufrio wanted to be sure that everyone was clear on what occurred. He said that the executive decision to postpone or cancel once that was declared by Dr. Martin, Mr. Perkins followed suit in removing the pertinent resolutions. Mr. Perkins said that he was making that determination based upon the discussion this evening. He said that Dr. Martin had already made the determination not to go forward. Mr. Nufrio said that any proposal by Mr. Perkins to remove or to otherwise postpone was predicated on what was originally engendered by Dr. Martin. Mr. Perkins asked if Mr. Nufrio meant Dr. Martin's letter. Mr. Nufrio said he did. Mr. Perkins said he guessed so. Mr. Nufrio said that he felt there has been an unfair "bashing" of Mr. Perkins at this point because this was an executive decision; he said that Mr. Perkins nor any of the board members agreed or issued such a statement. He said that he was also not bashing Dr. Martin but he had his reasons.

Mr. Monge said that now that Dr. Martin knows that the number is close to "25", could Dr. Martin make an executive decision to be able to put the program back on track without the board having to weigh in. Mr. Perkins said it is not Dr. Martin's decision. He said that on tonight's agenda there are three items; P-6 is the approval of individuals to staff the middle school academy; P-21 is the staffing for the ninth grade academy and the application for approval of the field trip was also on the agenda tonight. Mr. Perkins said that those three items are required in order for the academy to go forward. He said while the board did approve in concept the idea of going ahead with the academy program, the board did not approve either the staffing of the academies or the field trip.

Mr. Perkins said that by Dr. Martin saying that the program would not be going forward, he makes the three resolutions on tonight's agenda moot. He said that there are a lot of issues that need to be clarified before the academy can go forward.

Mr. Marchez asked if there was a possibility that the vote on the field trip to Philadelphia be postponed so that the academy can go forward at this time. He felt that if the Philadelphia trip is cancelled, many of the students who signed up will withdraw from the program.

Mr. DeRosa asked Dr. Martin if he could reverse his decision based on the fact that the funds are not available to continue with the program. Dr. Martin said that he would do anything he could to get the program running. He said that he is hearing that he just can't say that the academy will go forward.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Galante, seconded by Mr. Layden that the minutes of the regular meeting of August 20, 2013 be adopted:

AYE: Mr. Arminio, Mrs. Gaglione, Mr. Galante, Mr. Nufrio and Mr. Perkins
 NAY: None
 ABSTAIN: Dr. Francis and Mr. Layden MOTION WAS CARRIED

Moved by Mr. Galante, seconded by Mr. Layden that the minutes of the special meeting of September 20, 2013 and the Executive Session of September 20, 2013 be adopted:

AYE: Mr. Arminio, Dr. Francis, Mrs. Gaglione, Mr. Galante, Mr. Layden, Mr. Nufrio and Mr. Perkins
 NAY: None
 ABSTAIN: None MOTION WAS CARRIED

EDUCATION/STUDENT DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE:

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

E-1. APPROVE LIST OF STUDENTS REMOVED FROM THE ROLLS

That approval be given to approve the list of students removed from the rolls who are not domiciled in this school district [two (2) students for the period September 1 through September 30, 2013] a total of two (2) students for the 2013-2014 school year in accordance with the information appended to the nonpublic portion of these minutes.

E-2. AMEND 2013-2014 OUT-OF-DISTRICT SENT AND RECEIVED ATYPICAL STUDENT PLACEMENT AND TUITION LISTS

That the Board amend the 2013-2014 out-of-district sent and received atypical student placement and tuition lists will be approved in accordance with the information appended to the nonpublic portion of these minutes.

E-3. ACCEPT VANDALISM AND VIOLENCE REPORT FOR 2012-2013 SCHOOL YEAR

That the board accept the Vandalism and Violence Report for the 2012-2013 school year in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

E-4. AFFIRM SUPERINTENDENT'S RESOLUTION OF HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION AND BULLYING CONCLUSIONS

That the board affirm the Superintendent's resolution of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) conclusions for the period September 1st through October 8th, 2013.

E-5. APPROVE 2013-2014 SCHOOL NURSING SERVICE PLAN

That the board approve 2013-2014 School Nursing Service Plan in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

E-6. APPROVE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS, CONTRACT FOR CONDUCTING POST-SCHOOL OUTCOMES SURVEY OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

That the board approve New Jersey Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, Contract for Conducting Post-School Outcomes Survey of Students with Disabilities in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

E-7. APPROVE JOINT RESOLUTION FOR PARTICIPATION OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES P SUSSEX COUNTY REGIONAL COOPERATIVE

That the board approve Joint Resolution for Participation of Transportation Services for the 2013-2014 school year with Sussex County Regional Cooperative in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

E-8. APPROVE SCHOOL SAFETY PLAN – UNSAFE SCHOOL CHOICE OPTION POLICY PROVISION I – KAWAMEEH MIDDLE SCHOOL

That the board approve School Safety Plan – Unsafe School Choice Option Policy Provision I for Kawameeh Middle School in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

E-9. APPROVE UNION BOARD OF EDUCATION TITLE I DISTRICTWIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY

That the board approve Township of Union Board of Education Title I Districtwide Parental Involvement Policy in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

E-10. APPROVE NONPUBLIC NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND TITLE I AGREEMENT – UNION COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION

That the board approve Nonpublic No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Title I Agreement with Union County Educational Services Commission in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

E-11. APPROVE USE OF NEW JERSEY CAREER ASSISTANCE NAVIGATOR

That the board approve the use of the New Jersey Career Assistance Navigator (NJCAN) by district students in accordance with the information appended to these minutes. (There are no anticipated costs for the use of this program)

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Arminio asked if he was precluded from voting on E-10 since he is the board representative for the Union County Educational Services Commission. Mr. Damato said it would not.

AYE: Mr. Arminio, Dr. Francis, Mrs. Gaglione, Mr. Galante, Mr. Layden, Mr. Nufrio and Mr. Perkins

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION WAS CARRIED

FISCAL AND PLANNING COMMITTEE:

Moved by Mrs. Gaglione, seconded by Dr. Francis that the following resolutions be adopted:

F-1. ACCEPT TREASURER'S REPORT

That the Treasurer's Report dated September 30th, 2013 be accepted.

F-2. ACCEPT SECRETARY'S REPORT

That the Secretary's Report dated September 30th, 2013 be accepted.

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

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13(d), I certify that as of September 30th, 2013 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

DATED

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13(e), we certify that as of September 30th 2013 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. 6:20-2.13(b) 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 PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF *N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5* and *18A:18A-10(a)*

That the Board approve the following 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 ATTACHED LIST OF CONTRACTS AND/OR PURCHASES PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF *N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5(21)*

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) Jostens - \$5,979.17 – balance due for 2013 Eighth Grade Yearbook – Kawameeh Middle School; (b) Efingers Sporting Goods, Inc. – not to exceed \$1,800 – soccer team apparel- Union High School Athletic Department; (c) Forest Lodge, LLC - \$1,600 – initial deposit for 8th grade picnic – Kawameeh Middle School; (d) Samuel French - \$2,145 – licensing fee for "Grease- The School Production" – Kawameeh Middle School; (e) Scholastic Book Fairs - \$2,142.44- 2013 Book Fair – Kawameeh Middle School; (f) Galloping Hill Caterers, Inc. - \$25,000 – 1st Annual UHS Athletic Hall of Fame Dinner – Union High School Athletic Department; (g) Kass Glass - \$2,000 – Awards for UHS Athletic Hall of Fame – Union High School Athletic Department; (h) NJSIAA - \$12,000 – estimate of reimbursement for State Wrestling Tournament held at Union High School – Union High School Athletic Department; (i) UCIAC - \$4,000 – estimate of reimbursement for the County Wrestling Tournament for officials- Union High School Athletic Department; (j) Rohan Murphy, Inc.- \$2,000 – September 24, 2013 assembly at UHS – Union High School; (k) Burmax - \$4,437.80 – student cosmetology kits – Union High School; (l) Music Modes, Inc. - \$1313.90 – purchase of guard flags for marching band – Union High School

F-7. 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 in accordance with the information in the hands of each board member.

F-8. PRE-APPROVE STUDENT FIELD TRIP DESTINATIONS AND PURPOSES

That the Board pre-approve district-wide 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 COMPREHENSIVE MAINTENANCE PLAN REPORT

That the Board approve Comprehensive Maintenance Plan Report (Actual FY13, Budgeted FY14 and Planned FY15) in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

F-10. APPROVE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE BUDGET AMOUNT WORKSHEET

That the Board approve Annual Maintenance Budget Amount Worksheet pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:26A* in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

F-11. ACCEPT DONATIONS

That the Board accept the following donations: (a) \$116.41 from Target – Take Charge of Education – for use by Hannah Caldwell School; (b) \$207.29 from Target – Take Charge of Education – for use by Livingston School; (c) \$407.77 from Target – Take Charge of Education- for use by Washington School

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Perkins said that the Philadelphia trip is listed under resolution F-8 and Mrs. Gaglione’s motion does not include this trip.

AYE:	Mr. Arminio, Dr. Francis, Mrs. Gaglione, Mr. Galante, Mr. Layden, Mr. Nufrio and Mr. Perkins	
NAY:	None	
ABSTAIN:	None	MOTION WAS CARRIED

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Moved by Mr. Layden, seconded by Mr. Galante that Resolutions O-1 through O-4 be adopted:

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

That pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:17-11.2* the board approve the following bus emergency evacuation and security drill reports in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

O-2. APPROVE APPLICATION FOR USE OF POOL – BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS OF UNION COUNTY, INC.

That the board approve application for use of the pool at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Union County, Inc., for an annual rental fee of \$10,500 in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

O-3. APPROVE DONATION OF NOVELS

That the board approve donation of novels in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

O-4. APPROVE CONTINGENCY CHANGE ORDER #1 – C&M DOOR CONTROLS, INC.

That the board approve Contingency Change Order #1 to C&M Door Controls, Inc., 20 Markley Street, Port Reading, NJ 07064 for interior fire doors at Union High School to change out of the exit device trims to allow for locking at the top of the stairwell and to add lock cylinders to all of the new doors at the top of all stairwells at an added amount of \$2,847.83 plus 15% overhead and profit in the amount of \$427.17 for a total decrease in the owner’s contingency reserve of \$3,275 leaving a balance of \$8,725 in the contingency account in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

DISCUSSION:

None

AYE: Mr. Arminio, Dr. Francis, Mrs. Gaglione, Mr. Galante, Mr. Layden, Mr. Nufrio and Mr. Perkins
 NAY: None
 ABSTAIN: None

MOTION WAS CARRIED

Moved by Mr. Layden, seconded by Mr. Galante that Resolution O-5 be adopted:

O-5. AMEND PROPOSAL FOR RENEWAL OF BOARD'S CONTRACT AND LUNCH PRICES FOR 2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR – ARAMARK

That the board amend proposal for renewal of board's contract with ARAMARK and lunch prices for the 2013-2014 school year as follows: (1) The Board of Education finds that ARAMARK services are being performed in an effective and efficient manner. The price increase does not exceed the Index Rate and the other terms and conditions of the Contract shall remain substantially the same. This information is in accordance with the information in the hands of each board member; (2) One hundred seventy-five (175) service days for all schools and staff; (3) Current enrollment is 7,507 students for the 2013-2014 school year; (4) There is no change in state reimbursement and the federal reimbursement has an additional \$0.06 for Performance based lunch reimbursement; (5) Continued availability of government food commodities at the same quantity, quality and variety as for 2013-2014; (6) There is a \$0.10 price increase for paid breakfasts and lunches at all grade levels. This increase is in line with the guidance issued from the Department of Education. The Department of Education guidance is due to the changes under Section 205 of the "Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010". This regulation requires the program to provide the same level of support for lunches served to students who are not eligible for free or reduced price meals as they do for meals served to students eligible for free lunches. SFA's in the continental US currently charging less than \$2.59 for a paid lunch are required to gradually increase prices or provide additional non-Federal support for its lunches; (7) To adjust the allowance for ARAMARK's administrative fee to **\$0.1375** per meal served, and a management fee to **\$0.0527** per meal served (0.5% increase which is the current index rate); (8) To recommend the Board of Education of the Township of Union School District to reappoint ARAMARK for the food service management for the 2013-2014 school year as permitted by law; and (9) An unlimited guaranteed return of \$50,000 as per section 16F.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Nufrio asked Mr. Damato if in voting on this resolution does he have the way to vote with a condition. Mr. Damato said he did not. Mr. Nufrio asked if such a vote was permitted. Mr. Damato said it was not permitted. He said under the bylaws a board member may vote aye, nay, abstain or present not voting. Mr. Damato said that there are no other options.

Mr. Nufrio said that he had concerns about voting on this resolution. He said that he stated earlier that the company or individuals that had the task of reviewing the lunch applications in the past he believed should be held at least responsible to restore or make restitution to the district and the taxpayers for the money that was spent to "fix the problem".

Mr. Damato said that for the board's clarification on resolution O-5, this resolution was already adopted by the board back in June but when it was sent to the state for review, the two amounts that are bolded in the resolution have been changed to correspond to the regulations

and the contract review by the Bureau of Child Nutrition. Mr. Nufrio asked if the resolution should have been worded accordingly. Mr. Damato said that the resolution indicates that it has been amended. Mr. Nufrio said that basically it still indicates that the resolution is to "renew the contract". Mr. Damato said that the contract has already been renewed but the district is amending the resolution with the two bolded amounts. Mr. Nufrio asked if he had the leeway to reverse the vote on the previous resolution. Mr. Damato said that he did not. He said that Mr. Nufrio could express his displeasure but he did not know of a mechanism that he could recall the vote that was made in June. Mr. Nufrio said that he has witnessed board members reversing their votes based on newly presented information.

AYE: Mr. Arminio, Dr. Francis, Mrs. Gaglione, Mr. Galante, Mr. Layden and Mr. Perkins
 NAY: None
 ABSTAIN: None
 PRESENT NOT VOTING: Mr. Nufrio MOTION WAS CARRIED

Moved by Mr. Layden, seconded by Mr. Galante that resolutions O-6 through O-10 be adopted:

O-6. GRANT RENTAL FEE WAIVER – HOLY SPIRIT SCHOOL

That the board grant rental fee waiver for use of gymnasiums for the 2013-2014 school year to Holy Spirit School but the organization will be responsible for the payment of utility costs.

O-7. GRANT RENTAL FEE WAIVER – CROSSROADS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

That the board grant rental fee waiver for use of Battle Hill Elementary School gymnasium by Crossroads Christian Fellowship during the months of January, February and March 2014 for a volleyball/ basketball program but the organization will be responsible for the payment of utility costs.

O-8. APPROVE USE OF JEFFERSON SCHOOL GYMNASIUM – UNION RECRATION DEPARTMENT

That the board approve use of Jefferson School gymnasium for open gym by Union Recreation Department on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. for the period October 16, 2013 through March 27, 2014 in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

O-9. REPORT RECEIPT OF BIDS

Report receipt of bids for Nursing Services for the 2013-2014 school year received on October 8, 2013.

O-10. APPROVE WAIVER OF ALL FEES FOR USE OF JEFFERSON SCHOOL – VAUXHALL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

That the board approve waiver of rental fees for use of Jefferson School by Vauxhall Historical Society on Saturday, November 9, 2013 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to hold a program to honor veterans from the Vauxhall community.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Damato stated that with regard to resolution O-10, the letter from the Vauxhall Historical Society is requesting a waiver of custodial fees. He said that normally resolutions for use of school buildings usually contain the language that the organizations will pay custodial and utility fees. Mr. Damato said that since this was a late communication from Mr. Leak the president of the Vauxhall Historical Society that the board is aware that he is requesting a waiver of all fees for the board's consideration.

Mr. Arminio proposed that the board agree to allow the Vauxhall Historical Society to use Jefferson School on November 9th and that the board waives all fees.

Mr. Layden amended his movement of resolution O-10 to strike that the organization will be responsible to pay the required custodial and utility costs. Mr. Galante, who seconded the original motion, agreed with Mr. Layden's proposal.

Dr. Francis asked why some resolutions indicate that organizations will be responsible for custodial and utility costs and some do not. Mr. Damato said that there are custodians in the school buildings until 11 p.m. during the week so when an event occurs during the week, the district does not charge organizations for custodians if they are working their regular shifts. He said that the event referred to in resolution O-10 will be taking place on a Saturday and there are no custodians there on Saturday, except for building checks.

AYE:	Mr. Arminio, Dr. Francis, Mrs. Gaglione, Mr. Galante, Mr. Layden, Mr. Nufrio and Mr. Perkins	
NAY:	None	
ABSTAIN:	None	MOTION WAS CARRIED

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

Moved by Mr. Galante, seconded by Mr. Nufrio that resolutions P-1 through P-4 be adopted:

P-1. APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL ACTIONS

That personnel actions be approved in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

P-2. AMEND LISTS OF SUBSTITUTES FOR 2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR

That the board amend list of Substitute/Home Instruction List, Substitute Custodians, Substitute Cafeteria/Playground Assistants, Classroom Assistants and Secretaries for the 2013-2014 school year in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

P-3. APPROVE DIVISION OF CHILD PROTECTION AND PERMANENCY (DCPP) LIAISON FOR 2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR

That the board approve Gregory Tatum, Assistant Superintendent as DCPP - Division of Child Protection and Permanency (formerly DYFS) Liaison for the 2013-2014 school year, at no additional cost to the Board.

P-4. ACCEPT LETTERS OF RESIGNATION

That the board accept letters of resignation as follows: (a) Janice Mayo, secretary at Union High School effective January 1, 2014; (b) Lissette Campos, 1:1 aide at Battle Hill Elementary School, effective October 11, 2013; (c) Patricia Collura, clerk at Union High School, effective November 1, 2013; (d) Cynthia Klimchock, teacher at Franklin School, effective July 1, 2014

DISCUSSION:

None

AYE:	Mr. Arminio, Dr. Francis, Mrs. Gaglione, Mr. Galante, Mr. Layden, Mr. Nufrio and Mr. Perkins	
NAY:	None	
ABSTAIN:	None	MOTION WAS CARRIED

Moved by Mr. Nufrio, seconded by Mrs. Gaglione that resolution P-5 (b) through (e) be adopted:

P-5. APPROVE LEAVES FOR STAFF

That the board approve leaves for the following staff: (a) Megan Diaz, teacher at Livingston Elementary School, maternity leave, unpaid family leave and extended child rearing leave for the period November 11, 2013 through May 8, 2016; (b) Georgia Bethea, cafeteria/playground assistant at Franklin Elementary School unpaid sick leave beginning on September 9, 2013; (c) Jillian Semon, math teacher at Burnet Middle School, maternity, unpaid family leave and extended child rearing leave for the period November 25, 2013 through the end of the 2013-2014 school year; (d) Krystal Galante, resource room teacher at Battle Hill, maternity leave, unpaid family leave and extended child rearing leave for the period November 25, 2013 through the end of the 2013-2014 school year; (e) Lauren Coco, teacher at Hannah Caldwell School, maternity and unpaid family leave for the period November 25, 2013 through April 30, 2014

DISCUSSION

Mr. Nufrio questioned the return date for Ms. Diaz [item (a)] being May 8, 2016 and asked if such an extended period of time has ever been approved in the past. Mr. Damato said that it is permitted under the contract but typically it is done one year at a time. He said that he had been advised that since Ms. Diaz's paperwork is incomplete, he has been asked to pull this item from the agenda. Mr. Damato said that the board would be voting on items (b) through (e) in resolution P-5.

AYE:	Mr. Arminio, Dr. Francis, Mrs. Gaglione, Mr. Layden, Mr. Nufrio and Mr. Perkins	
NAY:	None	
ABSTAIN:	Mr. Galante	MOTION WAS CARRIED

P-6. APPROVE STAFF TO TEACH MIDDLE SCHOOL ACADEMY

That the board approve following staff to teach in the Middle School Academy which will be held at Burnet and Kawameeh Middle Schools from October 16 through November 14, 2013 class hours will be 7:10 to 7:50 a.m. and 2:50 to 3:30 p.m. in accordance with the information appended to these minutes. These individuals will teach one class period per day for twenty (20) days at a rate of \$38.25 per hour (THIS RESOLUTION WAS PULLED FROM THE AGENDA AND NOT VOTED ON)

Moved by Mr. Galante, seconded by Mr. Nufrio that resolution P-7 through P-20 be adopted:

P-7. APPROVE MASTER TECHNICIANS AND ASSISTANT TECHNICIANS FOR 2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR

That the board approve Master Technicians at a rate of \$20 per hour (not to exceed 200 hours per semester) and Assistant Technicians at a rate of \$10 per hour (not to exceed 200 hours per semester) for the 2013-2014 school year in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

P-8. AMEND BOARD RESOLUTION TO REMOVE STAFF MEMBER NOT ELIGIBLE TO BE PAID FROM NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND GRANT FUNDS

That the amend board resolution regarding salaries paid from the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) grant to remove staff member who is not eligible to be paid from those funds in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

P-9. ACCEPT PROPOSAL TO PERFORM STRUCTURAL EVALUATION OF TOWNSHIP OF UNION BOARD OF EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION BUILDING/MAINTENANCE GARAGE – JOHN T. DALESSIO, P.E., P.P. CONSULTING ENGINEER

That the board accept proposal from John T. Dalessio, P.E., P.P., Consulting Engineer, 1661 Route 22 West, Bound Brook, New Jersey to perform structural evaluation of Township of Union Board of Education Administration Building/Maintenance Garage for a fee not to exceed \$3,000 in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

P-10. ACCEPT PROPOSAL TO PERFORM STRUCTURAL EVALUATION OF HAMILTON SCHOOL, EXTERIOR MEANS OF EGRESS – JOHN T. DALESSIO, P.E., P.P. CONSULTING ENGINEERING

That the board accept proposal from John T. Dalessio, P.E., P.P., Consulting Engineer, 1661 Route 22 West, Bound Brook, New Jersey to perform structural evaluation of Hamilton School, Exterior Means of Egress for a fee not to exceed \$3,000 in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

P-11. ACCEPT PROPOSAL TO PERFORM STRUCTURAL EVALUATION OF INTERMEDIATE LANDING – EXIT 13 AT UNION HIGH SCHOOL – JOHN T. DALESSIO, P.E., P.P., CONSULTING ENGINEER

That the board accept proposal from John T. Dalessio, P.E., P.P., Consulting Engineer, 1661 Route 22 West, Bound Brook, New Jersey to perform structural evaluation of intermediate landing – exit 13 at Union High School at a fee not to exceed \$280 in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

P-12. APPROVE HOME INSTRUCTION FOR 2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR – YOUTH CONSULTATION SERVICE – KILBARCHAN – IRTS UNIT

That the board approve Youth Consultation Service – Kilbarchan- IRTS Unit, 81 39th Street, Paterson, New Jersey to provide home instruction for the 2013-2014 school year for a district student at the rate of \$50 per hour not to exceed \$6,000 in accordance with the information appended to these minutes. (Acct # 7693/11-150-100-320-01-19)

P-13. APPROVE CERTIFIED TEACHER TO PROVIDE HOME INSTRUCTION – SWICK

That the board approve Ashley Swick, district certified teacher to provide home instruction to district students at a rate of \$38.25 per hour on an "as needed" basis for the 2013-2014 school year (Acct # 17197/11-150-100-101-96-SS19)

P-14. APPROVE CERTIFIED TEACHER TO PROVIDE ABA INSTRUCTION – HRDINA

That the board approve Daniel Hrdina, district certified teacher to provide ABA instruction to district students at a rate of \$50 per hour on an "as needed" basis for the 2013-2014 school year (Acct # 17197/11-150-100-101-96-SS19)

P-15. AMEND I&RS COMMITTEE MEMBER LIST FOR 2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR

That the board amend I&RS Committee Member List for the 2013-2014 school year due to staff movement within the district in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

P-16. AMEND LIST OF STAFF APPROVED FOR CHANGE OF SALARY CLASS

That the board amend list of staff approved for change of salary class effective September 1, 2013 in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

P-17. AMEND RESOLUTION PROVIDING PHYSICAL THERAPY EVALUATIONS FOR 2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR – MORRIS UNION JOINTURE COMMISSION

That the board amend not to exceed amount in Resolution P-10 which was adopted by the board on July 16, 2013 with Morris Union Jointure Commission, 340 Central Avenue, New Providence, NJ to provide physical therapy evaluations at a rate of \$220 per hour for the 2013-2014 school year from \$2200 to \$5000 in accordance with the information appended to these minutes (Acct #11-000-219-320-01-19)

P-18. APPROVE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY EVALUATIONS – MORRIS UNION JOINTURE COMMISSION

That the board approve Morris Union Jointure Commission, 340 Central Avenue, New Providence, NJ to provide occupational therapy evaluations at a rate of \$200 per hour for the 2013-2014 school year in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 in accordance with the information appended to these minutes. (Acct #11-000-219-320-01-19)

P-19. APPROVE INCREASE OF PURCHASE ORDER – CROSS COUNTY CLINICAL AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

That the board approve increase of purchase order number 14-01229 to Cross County Clinical and Educational Services, 3176 Route 27, Kendall Park, NJ to provide bilingual evaluations at a rate of \$825 per evaluation for the 2013-2014 school year from \$3300 to \$4950 in accordance with the information appended to these minutes. (Acct # 11-000-219-320-01-19)

P-20. AMEND RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETATION SERVICES FOR 2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR – INLINGUA

That the board amend Resolution P-21 adopted by the Board on August 20, 2013 with inlingua, 95 Summit Avenue, Summit, NJ to provide translation and interpretation services for the 2013-2014 school year in an amount not to exceed \$5,400 in accordance with the information appended to these minutes. (Acct #11-000-216-320-01-19)

DISCUSSION:

None

AYE: Mr. Arminio, Dr. Francis, Mrs. Gaglione, Mr. Galante, Mr. Layden, Mr. Nufrio and Mr. Perkins

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION WAS CARRIED

P-21. APPROVE STAFF FOR NINTH GRADE ACADEMY AT UNION HIGH SCHOOL

That the board approve the following faculty members for the Ninth Grade Academy at Union High School that will run from October 16 through November 14, 2013: (a) Jill Hall and (b) Tommy Harrell. Class hours will be 2:50 to 3:30 p.m. at a rate of \$38.25 per hour. (THIS RESOLUTION WAS PULLED FROM THE AGENDA AND NOT VOTED UPON)

Moved by Mr. Galante, seconded by Mr. Nufrio that resolutions P-22 through P-25 be adopted:

P-22. AMEND LIST OF ATHLETIC EVENT STAFF – SMITH

That the board amend list of Athletic Event Staff to include Kathryn Smith.

P-23. APPROVE STAFF TO CONDUCT IN-HOUSE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

That the board approve staff to conduct In-House Professional Development in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

P-24. AWARD BID FOR NURSING SERVICES FOR 2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR – AROUND THE CLOCK HEALTHCARE SERVICES

That the board award bid for Nursing Services for the 2013-2014 school year to Around the Clock Healthcare Services, 422 Morris Avenue, Suite 5, Long Branch, New Jersey at a rate of \$38.49 per hour not to exceed 1100 hours or \$42,339 in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

P-25. PROVIDE SIXTY (60) DAY NOTICE OF TERMINATION – EMPLOYEE #11287

That the board provide sixty (60) day notice for termination to employee #11287 as per employment contract.

DISCUSSION

None

AYE: Mr. Arminio, Dr. Francis, Mrs. Gaglione, Mr. Galante, Mr. Layden, Mr. Nufrio and Mr. Perkins

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION WAS CARRIED

APPROVAL OF BILLS

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

AYE: Mr. Arminio, Dr. Francis, Mrs. Gaglione, Mr. Galante, Mr. Layden, Mr. Nufrio and Mr. Perkins

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION WAS CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Arminio said that Washington School has not yet finished counting the money that was raised with the "Heavenly Hats" Foundation. He said that many students and almost the entire staff did participate in this event.

Mr. Arminio said that the Union High School Athletic Hall of Fame is going to have its inaugural dinner and induction ceremony on November 25th at Galloping Hill Caterers. He said that there are a number of athletes from the decades from the 1930's through the 1990's. Mr. Arminio said that tickets are available through Ms. Ionta in the Athletic Office.

Mr. Arminio said that the girls' soccer team for the first time in quite a few years is in the semi-finals of the Union County Tournament next Saturday.

Mr. Arminio said that he hoped that the board could speak about setting up goals for this year.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Nufrio wanted to express his pleasure in working with a board that acts responsibly each month in paying bills.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Ms. Lipstein thought that tonight's meeting was participatory democracy at its best. She said that the people who attended the meeting this evening strongly want the academy to happen. Ms. Lipstein said that she was sure the board would come up with a solution within the next two weeks. She said that there is a Move On Petition at moveon.org/townshipofunion which is in support of the academy. Ms. Lipstein said that there are many positive comments on the site regarding the academy and no one wants to see the academy delayed any longer than necessary. She said that this was a tough meeting but she thought the board heard the feelings of the people involved. Ms. Lipstein said that she fully supports Dr. Martin's efforts and Dr. Martin had accomplished more in three years than she has seen in the thirty years that she has been in this town.

Ms. Lipstein said that the Union's Got Talent program, which is being sponsored by three non-profit organizations in the town will be held on December 14 at 7 p.m. She said that much of the information regarding this program will be disseminated within the next few weeks. Ms. Lipstein said that auditions will be held on November 23rd at Union High School.

Ms. Lipstein said that the Township of Union Education Foundation is funding a S.T.E.M. program in the fourth grade at Connecticut Farms School. She said that the Foundation is devoted to encouraging education innovation.

Mr. Perkins asked Ms. Lipstein what follow-ups are there with respect to the grants that the Township of Union Education Foundation made to teachers regarding the effectiveness of the programs for which the grants are made. Ms. Lipstein said that the Foundation asks for a progress report in the middle and at the end of the year; she said that many of the teachers when they are filling out their grant applications all of the requirements are listed. She said that the teachers also give a report at the public reception that is held every year. Ms. Lipstein said that the Foundation likes to see that programs which were started by grants from that organization are continued after the grant. Mr. Perkins asked if Ms. Lipstein follows up in subsequent years. She said that the Foundation does not ask for follow up reports but when the Foundation chooses which grants are going to be granted, they try to choose grants for programs that can be continuously effective.

Mr. Perkins said that he has heard that the garden at Connecticut Farms School is no longer in being. Ms. Lipstein said that she was not informed about the problem with the Connecticut Farms garden until it had become so overgrown and she was contacted by Mr. Pardo. She said that she would have liked to have been made aware. Ms. Lipstein said that the garden became overgrown because it was not kept up; there was no one to mow the lawn and weeds took over the beds. She said that it is sad to say that many teachers do not have time to take their students out into the garden because they are so busy doing the state mandated tests. Ms. Lipstein said that Mr. Pardo is going to make the garden into an ecological preserve and she told Mr. Pardo that she would reach out to City Green, who set up the original garden for suggestions. She said that there have also been some problems with the Hannah Caldwell garden and she has contacted Ms. Regal to see if the Foundation can help with that. Ms. Lipstein said that the school gardens have been one of the Foundation's projects.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

There being no further business before the board, it was moved by Mr. Galante, seconded by Mr. Arminio that the meeting be adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

AYE:	Mr. Arminio, Dr. Francis, Mrs. Gaglione, Mr. Galante, Mr. Layden, Mr. Nufrio and Mr. Perkins
NAY:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

MOTION WAS CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES J. DAMATO
BOARD SECRETARY