

UNION TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
WORKSESSION MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 10, 2013

Meeting held at James M. Caulfield Administration Building, 2369 Morris Avenue, Union, New Jersey.

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL: Mr. David Arminio, Ms. Susana Cooley, Dr. Guy Francis, Mrs. Linda Gaglione, Mr. Richard Galante, Mr. Thomas Layden, Mrs. Versie McNeil, Mr. Vito Nufrio and Mr. Francis R. Perkins, President

ABSENT AT ROLL CALL: Mrs. Versie McNeil

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Perkins at 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Francis led the board members and audience 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:

All communication has been referred to the appropriate committees for consideration.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Martin said that he had a number of things that he wanted to bring to the Board's attention. He said the first item is that all schools opened yesterday at all ten locations and he was very proud of the new Jefferson School. Dr. Martin said that the day went well. He said that the enrollment figure for the district as of the end of the day yesterday was approximately 94 students above where the district finished the school year at the end of June. He said that the total enrollment was 7,619; however, students continue to come in and enroll today so that figure will increase. Dr. Martin said that the district has grown a little bit but he was pleased to report that all systems are go and in each of the locations education is happening.

Dr. Martin said that next Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup> is a big day in the Township. He said that the Mayor's 5K Run/Walk would take place in the morning and it will again begin in the Union High School parking lot. Dr. Martin said that by all indications the race will be bigger and better than the past two years. He said that everyone was welcome to participate. Dr. Martin said that as part of the race last year, some "kids" races for students in the elementary school who are too young to run the 3.1 miles were held and this year those races will be held on the football field and the children will be running the 100 yards and they will also be running underneath some parachutes that are going up and down; this activity will be sponsored by the YMCA.

He said that he will be visiting each one of the schools, the elementary schools and the middle schools, to meet with the students and encourage them to participate. Dr. Martin said that this is a great day for everyone.

Dr. Martin said that after the race concludes starting at noon the Festival on the Green will be held which is coordinated by the Township. He encouraged everyone to visit that event as well. Dr. Martin said that the event will be held in the back of Town Hall. He said that at 2 p.m., hopefully a new annual tradition will be started. Dr. Martin said that the Kawameeh alumni, over the years, will be playing the Burnet alumni, over the years in a softball game at Bier temple Park. He said that all indications are that there is a lot of energy behind that and many people are excited about this event.

Dr. Martin said that the night before, Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, is the opening home football game against Elizabeth. He said that he was encouraging all of the students to come and be part of that also.

Dr. Martin passed around a book that was created at Connecticut Farms School by Ms. Higgins and Ms. Patricco. He said that this book was the result of a Union Education Foundation grant. Dr. Martin said that the students in the classes of Ms. Higgins and Ms. Patricco put together poetry and short stories and put into a bound book. He said that only about five of the books were made; one being housed in the classroom and in the library at Connecticut Farms School but one was brought up to the Administration Building to be added to its collection. Dr. Martin congratulated Ms. Higgins and Ms. Patricco for their hard work and thanked the Union Education Foundation for their generosity because the book is a terrific memento of the students' work.

Dr. Martin said that the district was notified that it has been selected to do the trial run of the PARCC assessment. He said that this was the new wave of the standardized assessment in the State where the students will actually take the test completely online. Dr. Martin said that the test will not be administered to all students this year but it will be used next year. He said what is great about being asked to field test it is that our students and staff will get some experience with it and work out some of the kinks beforehand. Dr. Martin said that he was honored that Union was asked to be a part of it. He said in the high school the Algebra test, the Geometry test and the Grade 11 Language Arts will be field tested this year; at Burnet seventh and eighth grade math will be part of it; at Kawameeh eighth grade math will be tested and Franklin School will test fourth grade language arts. Dr. Martin said that the district will learn a great deal by doing a trial run of this test. He said that the scores will not be counted for or against the district. Dr. Martin felt that this will be an educational experience that will help us.

Dr. Martin distributed a hand out which lists the new computer labs that are in the district's schools this year; this handout is attached as a part of these minutes. He reviewed the number of new computer labs that have been installed. Dr. Martin said that there have been a total of 18 new computer labs installed at the schools. He said that as indicated on the chart, some of the labs are ready and some are still in the process of being wired but he has been told by Ms. Hart that they will all be up and running very shortly. Ms. Hart said that her part of the installation is complete and she is just waiting for the wiring to be installed. Dr. Lishak said that prior to last week when the district was not part of the PARCC, she met with Mr. Wiggins and told him that the wiring of the labs could be postponed for awhile because the PARCC was not to be given until the 2014-2015 school year. She said that since the district has been chosen for the field test program of the PARCC, she will be meeting with Mr. Wiggins in the next couple of days to make sure that at least the schools affected be ready. Mr. Nufrio asked when you say "wiring" does that mean electrical wiring. Mr. Wiggins said electrical and data lines. Mr. Nufrio asked if the techs were doing the data wiring. Ms. Hart said that her department does not do any of the wiring. She said that the electricians do all of the wiring. Mr. Nufrio said that he understood about the electrical wiring but not the data cables. Ms. Hart said that the electricians must bring the drops into the room. Mr. Nufrio asked if the techs eventually do the hook ups of the computers. Ms. Hart said that they did. Dr. Martin said that the good news is that there are a large number of new computer labs and a large number of new computers in the district and they have come just in time to field test the PARCC test.

Dr. Lishak said that this afternoon she was walking through the high school trying to find a space for a little nook to put someone into to do some office work. She said that Mr. Pecoriello, the custodian at the high school, opened up a storage room that he had a number of things stored in. Dr. Lishak said that he pulled out a number of large mural paintings that the district has had in its possession and which were painted by district students. She said that Mr. Pecoriello was not quite sure if he had been moving them around for the past 10 or 15 years. Dr. Lishak said that there was one of the Town Hall, one of Connecticut Farms Church and one of the Union Center National Bank which were brought to the board office. She said that Dr. Martin suggested that the board discuss what might be done with these art pieces. Dr. Lishak said that they were not signed by the artist and she did not think there was any way she could find out who actually painted them. Mr. Perkins suggested that pictures be taken of the murals, they be put on the district's webpage and ask if anyone remembers working on them. Dr. Lishak said that there are three more murals still at the high school.

Ms. Cooley said that with regard to the beginning of the school year, it was great to get the "global" calls but there was a miscommunication with regard to the new lunch program. She said that there is a new way of going on line and putting money in student accounts. Ms. Cooley said that a lot of children went to buy lunch the first day and they were told that there was no money in their account. She said that the parents

were not notified that they were required to create a new account. Ms. Cooley said that it was just up on the website yesterday. She said that she had been e-mailing Mrs. Bridges from Aramark last night because parents were texting her and asking if she knew what was going on with the lunch program. Ms. Cooley said that she shared information on FaceBook and then passed the information on to the PTA presidents of each school. She said that the students were not turned away from lunch on the first day but the students were told that they needed to have money in their accounts for tomorrow. Ms. Cooley said she felt that a global call should have gone out notifying the parents that there was a new lunch system and they had to create a whole new account on line for their child. Dr. Martin said that he would find out what the story was and get a call out.

Mrs. Gaglione asked how Ms. Cooley's son got lunch on the second day. Ms. Cooley said that she had to create a new account for him. She said that she was told that if a student had money in his/her account last year the money should have been transferred to the new account. Mr. Vieira said it was. Ms. Cooley said that many students' balances were not transferred over. Mr. Vieira said that the software to pre-pay for lunches has been changed from last year and parents must create a new account for students. Ms. Cooley said that not every account transferred properly. Mr. Nufrio asked when the new account was created, did she have to reference the old account. Ms. Cooley said that you had to enter your child's identification number.

Dr. Martin said that he would speak to the Aramark people and Mr. Vieira and he would get together an organized statement that can be sent out globally so that parents know what they must do to get accounts up to speed.

Mr. Nufrio asked what could be done to prevent a situation like this from happening. He said that if he was a parent and he found out that his child was turned away at lunchtime because of a glitch or he failed to make a deposit in the account. Mr. Vieira said that no students were turned away. Mr. Nufrio said that the district still needs to have a plan in place if something like this happens again. Mrs. Gaglione said that representatives from Aramark were at a board meeting about six months ago, they made a presentation on the new system and there was a full discussion by the board at that time. She said that she told Aramark that she had a concern that when the year ends, the money would not be transferred to the new student accounts. Mrs. Gaglione said that the representative from Aramark was very understanding that the board expected money to be transferred to the new accounts and not just disappear. She said that if there were some "bugs". . . Mr. Nufrio said he was not talking about "bugs" but if there was an actual situation that occurred, what does the district do? Is there a safeguard in place to prevent a cafeteria worker from saying to a child "You have no money in your account, you have to eat the cheese sandwich"? What if the child is

allergic to cheese? He said that this should not be something that we deal with when it happens; he said that the district needed to prepare for such situations. Mr. Nufrio said that based upon Mr. Perkins' e-mail and his comments, the situation should never go that way.

#### EDUCATION/STUDENT DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE:

Mr. Arminio said that the committee met and he presented the agenda items. He said that the items on the agenda are pretty typical. Mr. Arminio pointed out that resolution indicates that the residency investigators were working over the summer and five students were removed from the rolls.

#### FISCAL AND PLANNING COMMITTEE:

Mrs. Gaglione said that the committee met and she presented the agenda. She said that there was no major discussion on any of the items as they are the standard items usually found monthly on the agenda.

Mrs. Gaglione said that the committee did discuss some of the operations projects that are upcoming.

#### OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:

Mr. Layden said that the committee did meet earlier in the evening and he presented the agenda.

#### DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Use of Burnet Middle School by Portuguese Language School of Union – Mr. Layden said that we have allowed the Portuguese School to use classrooms at Burnet Middle School in the past. Dr. Martin distributed some information regarding the Portuguese School's request. He said he thought the Portuguese School was terrific and they serve a wonderful purpose and they run a quality program. Dr. Martin said that this program happens late in the afternoon from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. and he was not happy with the security around the program. He said that the front door at Burnet was being left open to the general public from 4:30 until 7:30 and people were coming into the school, walking down the hallway to get to this program. He said that this was too risky and wide open and anyone can come into the doors. Dr. Martin said that he did not like the fact that a teacher or student could be alone in a classroom or hallway and something could happen. He said that he did meet with Mr. Rendiero last year and last year Dr. Martin made sure that there were gates that could seal off the front hallway in the school on the Morris Avenue side of the building and the idea was that if the gates were pulled down there would be no access to the area where the Portuguese School was holding their classes. Dr. Martin said that all of the students will be brought into the building together through the Morris Avenue entrance near the Special Services Office and the door will be shut. He said that the gates will be pulled and that specific area will be sealed off but connected to the hallway are stairwells so anyone in the

building could find their way down the stairwells and into that portion of the building. Dr. Martin said that he has been back and forth with the Portuguese School administrators asking them to come up with a plan. He said that he has been in touch with Mr. Ardito and Mr. Salvatore about this also. Dr. Martin said that there will be a meeting scheduled with Mrs. Texeira, Mr. Ardito and Mr. Salvatore sometime this week and he was looking for a written plan that will give some assurance that there is supervision at all times. He said that Mrs. Texeira told him that when students go to the restroom, there is always an aid that goes with the child. Dr. Martin said that this does give him some comfort however; the e-mails do say that even though the gates are there, sometimes they were not used last year and that does not give him comfort. He said that if the board will approve this request, he must figure out who will be responsible to pull down and lock the gates, who will be manning the doors so that he can be assured that there is a safe situation going on at Burnet. Dr. Martin said that the Portuguese School administrators do understand that he is not just trying to give them a hard time but that the district was concerned with safety. He hoped to bring something to the board next week as far as a plan and a recommendation to move ahead with this request. Dr. Martin said that Mr. Damato indicated that the Portuguese School also had to present the district with an insurance certificate and that has never been a problem.

Use of Union High School auditorium by UHSPAC on January 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> for a concert fundraiser – Dr. Martin said that he had some information regarding this request. He distributed information to the board members. Dr. Martin said that Mr. Mosser was present this evening to speak about this request.

Mr. Mosser said that the idea behind this request was that UHSPAC wanted to do a concert performance in the Union High School auditorium and the reason that there were two dates was in the event there was snow on the first date. He said that he would like to get alumni and students from the entire district to do a concert performance that would benefit the Music Department and hopefully create some great public relations for the town. Mr. Mosser said that he had connection with some "ringers" who would come in from Broadway shows to perform with students.

Mr. Perkin asked if there was a reason why the district shouldn't do this. Mr. Mosser hoped that the board would consider this request.

Use of Union High School auditorium by Township of Union Education Foundation on November 23<sup>rd</sup> and December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013 for a joint fundraiser – Mr. Perkins asked what groups would be involved in this fundraiser. Mrs. Canarelli said that Mrs. Lipstein had gone to a non-profit workshop and met the person who heads the Morristown Education Foundation and she shared with Mrs. Lipstein a fundraiser that they have done for the past six years called "Morristown's Got Talent". Mrs. Canarelli said that Mrs. Lipstein brought this information to the Union Education Foundation meeting and it was discussed. She said that it was decided that other groups in the

district should also be included in this joint fundraiser. Mrs. Canarelli said that the Union Education Foundation is a group that gives grants to teachers and students in the district; The Douglas Michael Krueger Scholarship Fund has been in existence for nine years, it has just become a corporation and it has a pending 501(c)3 application which has just been filed with the IRS and is awaiting approval. She said that in the past nine years this Fund has given over \$20,000 in scholarships to Union Township Schools and it would like to do even more. Mrs. Canarelli said that she has heard of a need for possible scholarships given to marching band students to go to band camp; she said that she would love to do that because her son was the "poster boy" for band. She said that the more money her fund could raise, the more money can be distributed to students. Mrs. Canarelli said that she also got UHSPAC involved in this fundraiser. She said that Mr. Mosser and Ms. Williams know what they are doing and it was decided that this would be a joint fundraiser for all three organizations. Mrs. Canarelli said that the Morristown program has been such a success and last year \$85,000 was raised by them. She said that Morristown did share all of their paperwork with the Education Foundation and the Education Foundation was able to customize it for use. Mrs. Canarelli said that everything will be done on-line. She said that the foundation is prepared to hire police for crowd control and security for this event. Mrs. Canarelli said that all applications and ticket sales will be done on line. She said that the organizers will know the crowd that is coming before they come. Mrs. Canarelli said that the most important rule is that an individual must have some connection with Union; either a former student, live or work in Union or if it is a band or group, at least one person must have a Union connection to participate. She said that the group was looking forward to doing this and there is a lot of excitement surrounding it.

Mrs. Gaglione said that on the forms distributed it states that "only individuals living in Union can participate." She said that this needs to be adjusted. Mrs. Gaglione said that if this event needs to be approved by the board, then this adjustment needs to be put in writing. Mrs. Lipstein said that this rule was listed on the sheet title "Official Rules and Regulations". Mrs. Gaglione said that if the Education Foundation was making a request of the board for this usage, the adjustment must be made in writing and get it back to the board before next week's meeting. Mrs. Lipstein said that she would make the adjustment in her letter and get to the board by tomorrow.

Mr. Nufrio asked if the format for the Union program was "mirrored" from the examples gotten from Morristown. Mrs. Canarelli said basically they were the same. Mr. Mosser said that he streamlined what would be considered "talent" a little. Mrs. Canarelli said that she hoped this could become an annual event.

Mr. Damato commented on resolutions O-1 and O-2 that these were 40% grants from the State of New Jersey and 40% of the expense of these projects will be paid by the state and the district couldn't otherwise afford to do these improvements.

## PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

Mr. Galante said that the committee met previous to this meeting and he presented the agenda. He said that there were no resolutions of major consequence or controversy.

Mr. Arminio said that with regard to resolution P-8, he read through all of the fringe benefits and dollar amounts and he wanted to know if all of the sick days and vacations in alignment with all of the other bargaining groups in the district. Mr. Damato said that they were different. Mr. Arminio asked if it was because they were twelve month employees. Mr. Damato said that everyone in this group are Central Office staff, some of the titles are administrative titles that are non-union so there are different provisions. He said in the teachers' contract, individuals get paid for accrued sick time at \$75 per day and in the Central Office agreement there is a much different rate for most of the people. Mr. Arminio said that the individuals in the Central Office agreement have a cap on the number of sick days they can be reimbursed for. Mr. Damato said that the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and School Business Administrator are required by law to be capped at no more than \$15,000 upon retirement for unpaid sick time. Mr. Arminio said that all of the other Central Office staff members have a much higher number. Mr. Damato said that based upon how much time the individual accrues, it could be higher. Mr. Nufrio asked if the entire group was assigned the same conditions or are they independently negotiated. Mr. Damato said that there were different rates for different titles. Mr. Nufrio asked if they were negotiated individually or independent. Mr. Damato said that he was not quite sure how this agreement was established. He said that when he came to the district, there were a group of Central Office administrators in the contract and it was done on a three year basis. Mr. Damato said that the rates gradually went up as time went by. He said that individuals are compensated at different rates but they are all capped at 325 days. Mr. Damato said that 325 days was the cap that Dr. Jakubowski imposed probably 10 or 15 years ago to stop the accrual of sick time for future payout. He said that as far as the health plan goes, everyone in the district gets the same health plan but as far as sick days and vacation days, it is different. Mr. Nufrio asked if the reimbursement was only applicable upon retirement, not upon resignation. Mr. Damato said not really. He said that you must read the language closely and it says "employees who are covered by the agreement. . . shall receive upon retirement or resignation in good standing". Mr. Damato said that if someone resigned and it was not in good standing, an individual would not be eligible.

Mr. Arminio asked why the Confidential Administrative Assistants were excluded from the \$200 physical examination. Mr. Damato said that he was not sure why. He thought that Section B has not been addressed in many years. Mr. Damato said he did not know if anyone took advantage of this anymore. He said that under the old health

insurance plan, physicals were not covered and if someone went for a physical, the individual could be reimbursed the expenses of the physical up to \$200. Mr. Damato said that this same provision is contained in the administrators' contract. He was not sure why this was put into the agreement. Mr. Perkins suggested that if Mr. Arminio had more questions to meet with Mr. Damato separately.

#### LEGAL COMMITTEE

Mr. Perkins said that the board would be going into Executive Session to discuss resolution L-1.

#### APPROVAL OF BILLS

Mr. Perkins said that the bills would be presented and approved at next week's meeting.

Mr. Perkins said that he just went to the district website regarding the school lunch accounts and there is a link called My School Bucks, which is the new website for parents to add money to a student's lunch account. He said when you click on the site and directions come up on how to register for a new account. Ms. Cooley said that My School Bucks was just posted on the district website yesterday. Mr. Perkins said that there is also an app available that can be downloaded onto an i-Phone to allow parents to manage the account remotely.

Mr. Nufrio asked if the funds are electronically deposited. Mr. Perkins said they were. Mr. Nufrio said that he always thought American Express was the safest "bank" to deal with and after his daughters bought textbooks through e-bay, about 8 additional charges from California showed up on his bill. He said that his faith in American Express went out the window. Mr. Nufrio asked how safe the district's site was. Ms. Hart said that it was not a district site, but it was "My School Bucks" account. Mr. Nufrio asked how safe the account was. Mr. Vieira said that nothing is 100% safe. Ms. Hart said that parents can also send money in an envelope to the main office of the school and it will be sent to the cafeteria to be added to a student's account and a credit card would not be necessary. Ms. Cooley said that the only thing she did not like about the account was that it gave specific amounts (such as \$25, \$35, etc) to put in the account. She said that she liked to put less in the account because there were too many choices in the cafeteria.

Dr. Martin said that he would include the fact that parents could send money to the main office rather than going on the internet to put money into a student's account. Ms. Hart asked Mr. Vieira if parents had to register their child for an account. Mr. Vieira said that every student that is in Genesis automatically has an account. Ms. Cooley said that the parent will get charged a percentage service fee for using a credit card on line. Mr. Nufrio said hopefully the site is offering protection. Mr. Vieira said if a parent sends in cash it bypasses the My School Bucks site and no fee is charged.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Mr. Galante said that Dr. Martin mentioned that the first home football game was next week against Elizabeth. He said that this game is also the UNICO Bowl. He said that UNICO was the largest Italian-American organization in the country and the Union and Elizabeth chapter sponsor this game in the sense that they present a trophy to the winning team. Mr. Galante said that the winner of three years in a row gets to keep the trophy. He said that this tradition has been going on for about 25 years.

Mr. Arminio said that the girls' soccer team beat Kearny the other day; the girls' field hockey team won their opening game yesterday; and the football team looked great in their scrimmage against Franklin.

Mr. Perkins said that the situation has gotten worse regarding security at athletic events. He said that Ms. Ionta came to him with an impassioned plea to increase the security of the facility. Mr. Perkins said that this issue has been discussed over the years and the board has wrestled with the issue of access to the track, etc. He said that it may be at the point where the district must say that the fields and the facilities are for the exclusive use of the district and the district only because of the abuse that is occurring in the facilities. Mr. Perkins suggested that this project move to the priority list along with others that have been discussed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

Mr. Nufrio said that it has been indicated that there have been some problems with security cameras in the schools. Mr. Wiggins said that many cameras were not functioning. Ms. Hart said that all cameras were functioning. Dr. Lishak said that all cameras were functioning but she had to exclude Jefferson. Ms. Hart said that at Jefferson all but two classroom telephones were not working but she was not sure about the cameras.

Dr. Francis asked about the basketball court outside of Jefferson School and he requested that trash receptacle be installed in the area. Mr. Wiggins said that he was working on that. He said that there would be one trash receptacle in each corner of the court.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Ms. Williams was parent of student that attended Connecticut Farms School. She said that she had two concerns. Ms. Williams said that she just moved to Union and lives on Savitt Place. She said that her son was nine years old and he walks to Connecticut Farms School. Ms. Williams said that the only crossing guard that she noticed on the route is on the corner of Elmwood and Johnson Place. She was wondering and hoping that a crossing guard could be placed somewhere down Elmwood Avenue. Ms. Williams said that she spoke to Lt. Christie at the Union Police

Department who told her there was nothing he could do because there is a traffic signal on the corner of Elmwood and Caldwell Avenues and a crossing guard was not necessary. She said that there was a crossing guard on Morris and Caldwell Avenues. Ms. Williams said that Lt. Christie said that there was not enough traffic on Caldwell Avenue but many cars use Elmwood Avenue to avoid the traffic on Morris Avenue. She said that she was requesting that someone put a crossing guard somewhere on Elmwood Avenue for safety reasons. Mr. Perkins said that Lt. Christie has been a particularly good friend of the board. He said that it is the Police Department that identifies, pays and mans the crossing guard situation, not the board of education. Mr. Perkins said that, by law, the board of education is precluded from doing that. He said that he would have a conversation with Lt. Christie.

Ms. Williams said that the aftercare provided by the Y.M.C.A. at Connecticut Farms School costs \$265 per month; she said that the Union Boys and Girls Club offers aftercare at the rate of \$205 per month. Ms. Williams said that in order for her son to get to the Boys and Girls Club, he would have to walk from Connecticut Farms to the Boys and Girls Club on Morris Avenue, with no supervision. She said that she went to the Boys and Girls Club and they told her there is a counselor that goes to Hannah Caldwell School every day to escort students from that school to the Boys and Girls Club and that school is right behind the Boys and Girls Club. Ms. Williams said that if there is a chaperone for students at the nearby school, it was unfair that there was not one from other schools in the district. She said she did not know if the school district had anything to do with it but she wanted to bring to the board's attention that what is done for one school, should be done for all schools. Mr. Perkins said that Dr. Martin should be the one to discuss this issue with her on a one-on-one basis to explain the arrangement that was made with the Boys and Girls Club. Dr. Martin said that it is the Boys and Girls Club that sends the counselor to Hannah Caldwell School and it is not a function of the board of education. He said that the district also has a very good relationship with the Boys and Girls Club and he would talk to Mr. Dovi from that organization about the fact that at least one parent is interested in seeing if a counselor could also be sent to Connecticut Farms School to walk students to the Boys and Girls Club. Dr. Martin said that he could not guarantee that it would happen because it would be a decision to be made by the Boys and Girls Club but he would advise Ms. Williams.

Mr. Olivio said that several months ago he attended a meeting to discuss projects that he had created with students at Burnet Middle School which were funded by donations. He said that the bushes in front of the school was one project, the teachers' lounge was one and the courtyard was another. Mr. Olivio said that at that time he asked the board to come up with some kind of a plan or resolution to preserve the projects since he was not longer at Burnet. He said that the bushes in front of Burnet were removed and Dr. Martin was not aware of the history of the bushes. Mr. Olivio said that since then he has written a letter to the board and sent pictures of the teachers' lounge and the courtyard. He asked Dr. Martin at that time if anything was

proposed for the courtyard or the teachers' lounge refurbishing or dismantling. Mr. Olivio said that Dr. Martin said no. He said that since then, he found out during the summer that the teachers' lounge has been repainted and the fireplace that was created by his Dad and him was destroyed and put in the dumpster. Mr. Olivio said that he has spoken to Dr. Martin and Mr. Tatum and they are investigating why this happened again. He still urged the board that if projects done by students could be preserved and since two of the three projects that he headed in the school have now been tampered with or destroyed, he could only take it to the certain point of taking it personally. Mr. Olivio said that someone has to be responsible and since there are cameras in the buildings during the summer, someone had to be responsible for throwing out the debris. He asked if there was a work order instituting why the fireplace was removed and why the room was painted. Mr. Wiggins said he did not think there was a work order generated for that. Mr. Olivio said he hoped the board would expedite the process and come up with a solution before anything else has been destroyed. He said that it was disheartening and embarrassing to him that he was part of the Union Board of Education and these types of things could happen when you have dedicated your life to the students and have given your blood, sweat, tears and donations to these projects and this is the thanks that you get. Mr. Olivio said that he did not think it was fair or right. He said that since this is the second time this has been done, something needs to happen and some disciplinary action needs to be taken. Mr. Perkins said that he has had a conversation with Dr. Martin today and there are no words that he can speak to solve the problem except that both he and Dr. Martin agreed that the issue of sensitivity to these kinds of things should be brought to the attention of the custodial staff at Burnet certainly as a start but also districtwide. He said that one of the other things that were talked about at the Townwide meeting a couple of days ago was treating all others well and in his view that includes respect for projects that were done. Mr. Perkins said that he can sympathize with Mr. Olivio and he wholeheartedly agreed with Mr. Olivio. Dr. Martin echoed Mr. Perkins' sentiments; he said that he could not tell Mr. Olivio how upset he was about this whole situation. He said that he told Mr. Olivio that appropriate action would be taken. Dr. Martin said that what happened was outrageous, it would be handled correctly and the board would be kept abreast of what was happening.

Mr. Nufrio asked Mr. Olivio if the projects were identified with any type of plaque that was affixed to the project. Mr. Olivio said in the teachers' lounge there was not a plaque but there was a dedication of the courtyard. He said that each of the projects was approved by the board before they were undertaken. Mr. Olivio said that he had to draw schismatic of what he was going to do because no codes can be violated and no outlets or air vents could be covered up. He said that he would think that if something is taken out or destroyed, at least give a courtesy call to ask if he wanted to take the fireplace. Mr. Olivio said this was even more upsetting. He said that most people at Burnet knew that his students practiced painting, sanding, etc. before they did the project.

**MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Moved by Mr. Galante, seconded by Mr. Arminio, that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation without the presence of the public in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 10:4- 2b. The Board will disclose the discussion conducted during the executive session, with notice to the public, when the disclosure will not result in unwarranted invasion of individual privacy or prejudice to the best interests of the Board of Education and provided that such disclosure does not violate federal, state or local statutes and does not fall within the attorney/client privilege.

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

MOTION WAS CARRIED

**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 8:35 p.m.

AYE: Mr. Arminio, Ms. Cooley, 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