

**TO ALL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS:**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Township of Union will be held on Tuesday, December 16, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at Union High School, North Third Street, Union, New Jersey.

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 Tuesday, December 16, 2008 at 7:00 p.m., pursuant to notice sent to each board member.

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL: Mr. Gary Abraham, Mr. Manuel Figueiredo, Mrs. Linda Gaglione, (President), Mr. Steve Helmstetter, Mr. Anthony Manochio, Mrs. Versie McNeil, Mr. Francis Perkins and Mrs. Judy Salazar

ABSENT AT ROLL CALL: Mr. Steve Ruhl

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

The secretary read the statement required under the "Open Public Meetings Act", a copy of which is on file in the office of the secretary.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mrs. McNeil that the minutes of the November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008 Worksession be approved:

AYE: Mr. Abraham, Mr. Figueiredo, Mr. Helmstetter, Mr. Manochio,  
Mrs. McNeil, Mrs. Salazar and Mrs. Gaglione  
NAY: None  
ABSTAIN: Mr. Perkins MOTION WAS CARRIED

Moved by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mrs. McNeil that the minutes of the November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008 Executive Session be approved:

AYE: Mr. Abraham, Mr. Figueiredo, Mr. Helmstetter, Mr. Manochio,  
Mrs. McNeil, and Mrs. Gaglione  
NAY: None  
ABSTAIN: Mrs. Salazar and Mr. Perkins MOTION WAS CARRIED

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mrs. McNeil that the minutes of the November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008 Regular Meeting be approved:

AYE: Mr. Abraham, Mr. Figueiredo, Mr. Helmstetter, Mr. Manochio,  
Mrs. McNeil, Mr. Perkins, Mrs. Salazar and Mrs. Gaglione

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION WAS CARRIED

## COMMUNICATIONS:

## REQUEST FOR FEE WAIVER – TOWNSHIP OF UNION EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Susan Lipstein, President of the Township of Union Education Foundation, submitted a letter dated November 14, 2008, requesting waiver of all fees for use of Union High School Library for its annual spring reception on May 20, 2009 from 3:30 to 8:30 p.m.

## REQUEST FOR UNPAID FAMILY LEAVE – REGESKI

Annette Regeski, part time transportation assistant, submitted a request for unpaid family leave for the period December 4, 2008 through March 31, 2009.

## REQUEST FOR UNPAID FAMILY LEAVE – SOLLA

Gregory Solla, security monitor at Union High School, submitted a request for unpaid family leave for the period December 1, 2008 through February 28, 2009.

## LETTER OF RESIGNATION – MAGGIO

Sonya Maggio, School Psychologist at Battle Hill School, submitted a letter of resignation, effective December 31, 2008.

## LETTER OF RESIGNATION – NELSON

Lori Nelson, teacher at Hannah Caldwell Elementary School, submitted a letter of resignation, effective immediately.

## CORRESPONDENCE – SUPLEE CLOONEY &amp; COMPANY

Robert Cagnassola, Partner, Suplee Clooney & Company, submitted a letter conveying season's greetings.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Jakubowski gave his Superintendent's Report, a copy of which is appended to these minutes.

Mr. Perkins said that he understood that the board of education meetings were going to be recorded and placed on the district's website in the not too distant future. He wanted to know if the "Our Schools" programs would also be posted on the website for viewing? Dr. Jakubowski said hopefully they would be soon. He said that the FIOS system was broadcasting the meeting tonight for the first time. Dr. Jakubowski welcomed those in the community who subscribe to FIOS.

#### COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON RESOLUTIONS ON THE AGENDA

None

#### EDUCATION/STUDENT DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE:

Moved by Mr. Figueiredo, seconded by Mr. Manochio that the following resolutions be adopted:

##### E-1. AMEND LIST OF STUDENT REMOVED FROM THE ROLLS

That approval be given to amend the list of students removed from the rolls [six (6) students for the period November 1<sup>st</sup> through November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008; total of students exited during the 2008-2009 school year is seventeen (17) students] who are not domiciled in this school district in accordance with the information appended to the nonpublic portion of these minutes.

##### E-2. AMEND 2008-2009 OUT-OF-DISTRICT ATYPICAL STUDENT PLACEMENT LISTS

That the Board amend the 2008-2009 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. APPROVE AMENDED SPECIAL EDUCATION MEDICAID INITIATIVE (SEMI) ACTION PLAN

That the Board approve amended Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Action Plan in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

##### E-4. APPROVE SECTION IV: LEAST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION SELF ASSESSMENT 2008 MONITORING

That the board approve attached Section IV: Least Restrictive Environment be submitted to the New Jersey Department of Education for Special Education Self Assessment 2008 monitoring.

#### DISCUSSION:

None

## EDUCATION/STUDENT DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE

AYE: Mr. Abraham, Mr. Figueiredo, Mr. Helmstetter, Mr. Manochio,  
Mrs. McNeil, Mr. Perkins, Mrs. Salazar and Mrs. Gaglione  
NAY: None  
ABSTAIN: None MOTION WAS CARRIED

## FISCAL AND PLANNING COMMITTEE:

Moved by Mr. Helmstetter, seconded by Mr. Abraham that the following resolutions be adopted:

## F-1. ACCEPT TREASURER'S REPORT

That the Treasurer's Report dated November 30, 2008 be accepted.

## F-2. ACCEPT SECRETARY'S REPORT

That the Secretary's Report dated November 30, 2008 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 November 30, 2008 no budgetary line item account has obligations and payments (contractual orders) which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the district board of education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8 and 18:22-8.1.

\_\_\_\_\_  
James J. Damato, Board Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dated

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13(e), we certify that as of November 30, 2008 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/ 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 copy appended to these minutes.

## FISCAL AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

## F-5. CONCUR WITH INVESTMENTS

That the board concur with the investments made by the Business Administrator as follows:

Mature Date	Purchase Date	Number of Days	Amount	Invest. Held by	Home A/C Account	Interest Rate	Estimated Income
12/16/08	11/18/08	28	1,100,000	Investors	UCNB Café	2.80%	2,395.56
12/16/08	11/18/08	28	17,500,000	Investors	UCNB CAP Reserve	2.80%	38,111.11
12/16/08	11/18/08	28	22,000,000	Investors	UCNB OP AC	2.80%	47,911.11
12/16/08	11/18/08	28	2,500,000	Investors	UCNB Jan03 Bond	2.80%	5,444.44
12/16/08	11/18/08	28	800,000	Investors	UCNB EBS CAST	2.80%	1,742.22
12/16/08	11/18/08	28	1,000,000	Investors	Unity BankSUI	2.80%	2,177.78

## F-6. ADOPT 2007/2008 CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN (CAP) FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT (CAFR)

That the board adopt the 2007/2008 Corrective Action Plan (CAP) for the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the period ending June 30, 2008 in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

F-7. APPROVE ATTACHED LIST OF CONTRACTS AND/OR PURCHASE ORDERS PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF *N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5* and *18A:18A-10(a)*

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

F-8. APPROVE ATTACHED LIST OF CONTRACTS AND/OR PURCHASES PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF *N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5(21)*

The committee recommends and I so move 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) Home Depot Credit Services - \$1,863.34 – lumber and tools for scenic construction for "A Flea in Her Ear" – Union High School; (b) Anything But Costumes - \$1,104.94 – prop rental for "A Flea in Her Ear" – Union High School; (c) Audio Incorporated - \$2,166.98 – sound equipment for spring musical – Union High School; (d) PRG Lighting - \$1,950 – lighting equipment for spring musical – Union High School; (e) N & J Fund Raising - \$1,600 – sophomore fundraiser – Union High School

F-9. APPROVE DISTRICTWIDE TRAVEL AND RELATED EXPENSES PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF *N.J.S.A. 18A:11-12*, *N.J.A.C. 6A:23B* and Board Policy File Codes 4133, 4440 and 9250

That the Board approve districtwide travel and related expenses pursuant to the requirements of *N.J.S.A. 18A:11-12*, *N.J.A.C. 6A:23B* and Board Policy File Codes 4133, 4440 and 9250 and in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

## FISCAL AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

F-10. PRE-APPROVE DISTRICTWIDE STUDENT FIELD TRIP DESTINATIONS AND PURPOSES PURSUANT TO *N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.8*

That the Board pre-approve districtwide student field trip destinations and purposes pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.8* in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

## F-11. ACCEPT DONATIONS FOR USE BY JOHN OLIVIO'S MCI CLASS – BURNET MIDDLE SCHOOL

That the board accept donations for use by John Olivio's MCI class at Burnet Middle School as follows: Charles F and Margaret M. Novak - \$50 and Union Council No. 4504, Knights of Columbus - \$2500.

## F-12. AUTHORIZE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM CAPITAL RESERVE TO CAPITAL OUTLAY MAJOR ACCOUNT/FUND

That pursuant to 6A:23-2.13(h)1, a copy of which is appended to these minutes, the board authorize the transfer of funds from the Capital Reserve to the Capital Outlay Major Account/Fund to cover predevelopment costs associated with architectural fees for the following school facilities projects which are include in the district's approved Long Range Facilities Plan: (a) Potter Architects-Central-Five School - \$1,473,400; (b) Potter Architects – Hannah Caldwell School - \$208,000

## F-13. ACCEPT FY2009 PERKINS SECONDARY GRANT FUNDS

That the board accept FY 2009 Perkins Secondary grant funds in the amount of \$45,891 in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

## F-14. APPROVE FY 2009 NOTIFICATION OF GRANT AWARD FOR IDEIA CONSOLIDATED FORMULA GRANT

That the board approve Fiscal Year 2009 Notification of Grant Award for IDEIA Consolidated Formula Grant (Grant # IDEA529009) as follows and in accordance with the information appended to these minutes: (a) Basic - \$1,804,859 and (b) Preschool - \$45,432.

## DISCUSSION:

None

AYE: Mr. Abraham, Mr. Figueiredo, Mr. Helmstetter, Mr. Manochio,  
Mrs. McNeil, Mr. Perkins, Mrs. Salazar and Mrs. Gaglione

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION WAS CARRIED

## OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:

Moved by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mrs. Salazar that the following resolutions be adopted:

## O-1. APPROVE DISCARD OF TEXTBOOKS

That the board approve discard of textbooks in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

## O-2. APPROVE FEE WAIVER FOR USE OF UNION HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY – TOWNSHIP OF UNION EDUCATION FOUNDATION

That the board approve fee waiver for use of Union High School Library on May 20, 2009 from 3:30 to 8:30 p.m. by Township of Union Education Foundation for its annual spring reception.

## O-3. ACCEPT DONATION – TOWNSHIP OF UNION EDUCATION FOUNDATION

That the board accept donation from Township of Union Education Foundation to Doris Glowacki and Sigrid Pagano of the German Language Department of computers and related items in the amount of \$3244.04 which will allow German language classes at Union High School to connect with other German Language Classes, etc., to better understand the German language in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

## O-4. APPROVE ADVERTISEMENT FOR DISPOSAL OF EQUIPMENT

That the board approve advertisement for disposal of equipment which is deemed no longer serviceable, in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

## O-5. APPROVE PROPOSALS – POTTER ARCHITECTS

That the board approve the following proposals to Potter Architects in accordance with the information in the hands of each board member: (a) Proposal No. P2008132 – Hannah Caldwell Pre-K Classrooms- not to exceed \$208,000 and (b) Proposal No. P2008131 – Interior/Exterior Alterations of UBOE Administration Building - \$75,000

## O-6. APPROVE INCREASE IN PROPOSAL AMOUNTS AWARDED – POTTER ARCHITECTS

That the board approve increase of the proposals awarded to Potter Architects in the following amounts covering additional architectural services and in accordance with the information in the hands of each board member: (a) Proposal No. P2008028 approved on March 18, 2008 from \$68,500 to \$69,600; an increase of \$1,100; and (b) Proposal No. P2008062 approved on May 20, 2008 from \$36,800 to \$37,900; an increase of \$1,100.

## OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

## O-7. APPROVE CONTINGENCY CHANGE ORDER #1 – D&amp;L CONTRACTORS, INC.

That the board approve Contingency Change Order #1 from D&L Contractors, Inc., 185 High Street, Nutley, New Jersey in the amount of \$10,625 for additional work on Union High School Student Parking Lot Repair and Change Order #1 from D&L Contractors, Inc., 185 High Street, Nutley, New Jersey for refund of contingency allowance in the amount of \$6,875 in accordance with the information in the hands of each board member.

## O-8. REPORT RECEIPT OF BIDS

Report of bids received on December 12, 2008 for Asbestos Abatement at Union Township Schools and bids received on December 16, 2008 for Proposed Home Bleacher Renovations for Cooke Memorial Field, Union High School.

## O-9. APPROVE CONTINGENCY CHANGE ORDER #1 – NORTHEAST ROOF MAINTENANCE, INC.

That the board approve Contingency Change Order #1 from Northeast Roof Maintenance, Inc., 649 Catherine Street, Perth Amboy, New Jersey for additional work performed in connection with metal roofing replacement at Hannah Caldwell School in the amount of \$14,950 which is being deducted from owner's contingency reserve leaving a balance of \$5,050 in the contingency reserve in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

## O-10. AWARD BID FOR PROPOSED HOME BLEACHER RENOVATIONS AT COOKE MEMORIAL FIELD, UNION HIGH SCHOOL – LANDSITE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

That the board award bid for Proposed Home Bleacher Renovations for Cooke Memorial Field, Union High School to Landsite Construction Company, 252 West Westfield Avenue, Roselle Park, NJ for the base bid of \$346,200; plus Alternate A-1 in the amount of \$41,500; Alternate A-2a in the amount of \$8,165; Alternate A-2b in the amount of \$15,525 and Alternate A-3 in the amount of \$30,360 for the total bid of \$441,750 in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

## O-11. AWARD BID FOR ASBESTOS ABATEMENT DISTRICTWIDE – B &amp; G RESTORATION, INC.

That the board award bid for Asbestos Abatement at Union Township Schools to B & G Restoration, Inc., 105 Ryerson Road, Lincoln Park, NJ in a bid amount not to exceed \$223,075.

## DISCUSSION:

Mr. Perkins asked Mr. Abraham to mention the amount of the contribution from the Township of Union Education Foundation which is a significant amount and he thought that the Foundation should be acknowledged for their donation

## OPERATIONS COMMITTEE - DISCUSSION

of equipment which totaled \$3,244. He also wanted to acknowledge the donation from the Knights of Columbus in the amount of \$2,500 which was donated for the use of Mr. Olivio's MCI class at Burnet Middle School.

Mr. Helmstetter requested additional information regarding the repair of the bleachers at Cooke Memorial Field. Mr. Magliacano said that the base bid for the bleachers was \$346,000. He said that structural upgrades would also be done to the framework at a cost of \$41,000 and there will also be new fencing in front of the bleachers and around the entire running track. Mr. Magliacano said that the entire structure would also be painted in weather resistant paint.

AYE: Mr. Abraham, Mr. Figueiredo, Mr. Helmstetter, Mr. Manochio,  
Mrs. McNeil, Mr. Perkins, Mrs. Salazar and Mrs. Gaglione  
NAY: None  
ABSTAIN: None MOTION WAS CARRIED

## PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

Moved by Mr. Manochio, seconded by Mr. Helmstetter that resolution P-1 be adopted:

## P-1. APPROVE PERSONNEL ACTIONS

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

AYE: Mr. Figueiredo, Mr. Helmstetter, Mr. Manochio, Mrs. McNeil,  
Mr. Perkins, Mrs. Salazar and Mrs. Gaglione  
NAY: None  
ABSTAIN: Mr. Abraham MOTION WAS CARRIED

Moved by Mr. Manochio, seconded by Mr. Helmstetter that resolutions P-2 through P-13 be adopted:

## P-2. AMEND 2008-2009 SUBSTITUTE LIST

That the Board amend the 2008-2009 Substitute/Home Instruction, Substitute Custodian, Substitute Cafeteria/ Playground Assistants list, in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

## P-3. APPROVE PAYMENT FOR PREPARATION TIME FOR EPI-PEN AND OTHER HEALTH RELATED ISSUES TRAINING – SENSOR

That the Board approve payment to Connie Sensor, for five (5) hours of preparation time at a rate of \$40.00 per hour, not to exceed \$200 for Epi-Pen and other health related issues training.

## PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

## P-4. APPROVE AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM COORDINATORS

That the Board approve the following staff as afterschool coordinators for the period January 6 through April 30, 2009 at a rate of \$2800 per person: (a) Libby Galante – Battle Hill School; (b) Lillian C. Pryor – Connecticut Farms School; (c) Nicole Ciampi – Hannah Caldwell School; (d) Peter Seyffart – Livingston School; (e) Althea Bossard – Franklin School; and (f) Cindy Attanasi – Washington School.

## P-5. APPROVE PAYMENT TO STAFF FOR SECURITY AT UNION HIGH SCHOOL PLAY

That the board approve payment to the following staff as security monitors at Union High School on November 20, 21, 22 and 23, 2008 for performances of "A Flea in Her Ear" as follows: (a) Lynn Baker – 5 hours at \$20.94 per hour, not to exceed \$104.70; (b) Helene Lateiner – 19.5 hours at \$20.94 per hour, not to exceed \$408.33; (c) Ron Lateiner – 9.5 hours at \$20.94 per hour, not to exceed \$198.93; (d) John Petrozzino – 5 hours at \$20.94 per hour, not to exceed \$104.70; (e) Elizabeth Rizzolo – 19.5 hours at \$20.94 per hour, not to exceed \$408.33; and (f) Gayle Sumner – 19.5 hours at \$20.94, not to exceed \$408.33.

## P-6. APPROVE PAYMENT TO STAFF FOR AFTERSCHOOL WORKSHOPS

That the board approve payment to staff for afterschool workshops in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

## P-7. APPROVE UNAPID FAMIL LEAVE

That the board approve unpaid family leave for the following staff: (a) Annette Regeski, part-time transportation assistant, for the period December 4, 2008 through March 31, 2009; (b) Gregory Solla, security monitor at Union High School for the period December 1, 2008 through February 28, 2009.

## P-8. ACCEPT LETTERS OF RESIGNATION

That the board accept the letters of resignation from the following staff: (a) Sonya Maggio, School Psychologist at Battle Hill School, effective January 3, 2009; (b) Lori Nelson, teacher at Hannah Caldwell School, effective immediately.

## P-9. APPROVE PAYMENT TO STAFF FOR FAMILY SCIENCE AND FAMILY MATH – HANNAH CALDWELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

That the board approve payment to the following Hannah Caldwell Elementary School staff at a rate of \$500 per person: (a) Family Science - January 20, 27, February 3 and 10, 2009 – Leslie Nigro and Laura Gillespie; (b) Family Math – October 7, 14, 21, and 28, 2008 – Nicole Ahern and Marisa Caruso

## PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

## P-10. APPROVE MATERNITY AND UNPAID FAMILY LEAVE – SANTANGELO

That the board approve maternity and unpaid family leave for Carrie Santangelo, teacher at Battle Hill School, for the period January 16, 2009 through the end of the 2008-2009 school year.

## P-11. APPROVE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST AND SPEECH THERAPIST

That the board approve Bonnie Mauer, Occupational Therapist and Erica Santiago, Speech Therapist to provide home therapies for a special education student, at a rate of \$65 per hour for each therapy, not to exceed eight (8) hours for each therapy or \$520 per therapist.

## P-12. APPROVE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT – ASSOCIATION OF CUSTODIAL, MAINTENANCE AND TRANSPORTATION EMPLOYEES (CMTE)

That the board approve memorandum of agreement between the Board and the Association of Custodial, Maintenance and Transportation Employees (CMTE) in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

## P-13. APPROVE PRESENTATION OF SEMINAR TO ALLIED HEALTH CLASSES – MAMORY

That the board approve Sandy Mamory to present "Positive Career Choices" seminar to Allied Health classes at Union High School on January 26, 2009 at a rate of \$400.

## DISCUSSION:

Mrs. McNeil asked about the individual who was referred to in resolution P-13. Dr. Jakubowski said that this Ms. Mamory does not work in the school district but the Allied Health curriculum requires that guest speakers do presentations on certain issues. He said that Ms. Mamory would be doing a presentation on positive career choices to the Allied Health classes. Mrs. Gaglione asked if this seminar was only for Allied Health students? Dr. Jakubowski said it was.

AYE: Mr. Abraham, Mr. Figueiredo, Mr. Helmstetter, Mr. Manochio,  
Mrs. McNeil, Mr. Perkins, Mrs. Salazar and Mrs. Gaglione

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION WAS CARRIED

## LEGAL COMMITTEE

Moved by Mrs. McNeil, seconded by Mr. Abraham that the following resolution be adopted:

## L-1. APPROVE SETTLEMENT, RELEASE AND NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT

That the board approve Settlement, Release and Non-Disclosure Agreement in the matter of A.R. vs. Union Township Board of Education in accordance with the information in the hands of each board member and attached to the nonpublic portion of these minutes.

## DISCUSSION:

None

AYE: Mr. Abraham, Mr. Figueiredo, Mr. Helmstetter, Mr. Manochio, Mrs. McNeil, Mr. Perkins, Mrs. Salazar and Mrs. Gaglione

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION WAS CARRIED

## APPROVAL OF BILLS

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

AYE: Mr. Abraham, Mr. Figueiredo, Mr. Helmstetter, Mr. Manochio, Mrs. McNeil, Mr. Perkins, Mrs. Salazar and Mrs. Gaglione

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION WAS CARRIED

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Dr. Jakubowski said that last Friday he attended a meeting with the Commissioner of Education. He said that in accordance with that meeting, the district has submitted a preschool expansion program as required by law to the State Department of Education. Dr. Jakubowski said that he and Mrs. Moutis put in very comfortable numbers at this time. He said that if, in fact, the district is required to implement this expansion program in September, there will be a number of students in full classes but the district will not be able to house the average enrollment of 288 students; the enrollment will probably be closer to 130 students. Dr. Jakubowski said in the meantime there are still some questions as to whether or not schools that are not universal; universal meaning that the school has a free and reduced lunch population of more than 40%;

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

universal programs are supposed to be in full swing next school year and our program will be a percentage of what the district's allotted number would be. He said that it may be possible for districts to ask for a waiver and he spoke to the County Superintendent for a clarification on this. Dr. Jakubowski said that he and Ms. Dunn have discussed it and he did not believe that a waiver would have any effect on the district's application for the expansion of Hannah Caldwell project. He said that if the district can wait one more year to implement the program he would be more comfortable with that but if the district must move forward for the next school year the district will and those students who are not eligible for free or reduced lunch will be put into a lottery and only a small percentage of those students will be able to attend preschool in the district next year. Dr. Jakubowski said that once the Hannah Caldwell project is completed, there will be seven more classrooms and he is optimistic that more students will be afforded the opportunity to attend preschool in the district but it still will not allow for a full contingent of students to attend preschool.

Dr. Jakubowski said that the other issue that was discussed at the state level was high school graduation requirements. He said that there will be testing in particular subject areas. Dr. Jakubowski said that for sure there will be testing in Algebra I, Biology and Algebra II and he believed that there would also be tests for Chemistry and Geometry. He said that there are many concerns about students not knowing the history of our country, civics and social studies and there has been no talk right now about having students tested in that area. Dr. Jakubowski said that at his next County Roundtable meeting he was going to bring this up to the County Superintendent. He said as a former math teacher he was not so sure that everybody needed to know Algebra II but he felt that every student should be taking U.S. History I and II and know a little about the history of the United States. Dr. Jakubowski said that he would keep the board members advised through his weekly hotline communications as to any statewide developments as this has an impact on everyone in the community. He said that the board certainly wants to continue to provide the district's students with the best opportunities but sometimes the best opportunity is not necessarily a full academic load but it is to allow students to take elective courses. Dr. Jakubowski said that he would hate to see the Allied Health program be eliminated because students are required to take other subjects. He said that this also went for the NJROTC and cosmetology programs. Dr. Jakubowski said that although he wanted the district's standards to remain high, he believed, at the state level, they should be looking at all students and what is best for every student. Mrs. Gaglione said that the thing to remember is that these are directives that are coming from the state that the board will be

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

required to provide. Dr. Jakubowski said that these are regulations that are coming from the State Department of Education. He said that he understood there was going to a hearing in January regarding preschool expansion and he was hoping to attend that hearing to express his concerns having a full day program for three year olds when 75% of the school districts in the State do not have full time kindergarten. Dr. Jakubowski said that Union already has a full day kindergarten program and it has had half day preschool for over thirty years. He was not sure that expanding the preschool program at the expense of other programs was the answer. Mrs. Gaglione stated that some preschool students would be impacted with the new regulations. Dr. Jakubowski said that if the mandate comes down in its present form, there will be no more than 15 students in a class and it must be a full day program. He said that the district currently has seven preschool classrooms and with some consolidation, he could probably make room in one or two more classrooms in the district but that would make the enrollment in other grades higher. Dr. Jakubowski said that even with ten classes, with only 15 students in a classroom, this would only service 150 students and currently there are 288 students in the preschool program. He said his argument was that preschool should be a half day program providing socialization and some skill learning for all students is better than a full day program for only half of the students.

Mr. Perkins said that he wanted to share with the community a short article regarding civics literacy. He said that the column was written by Kathleen Parker who is a self-described conservative in the Washington Post and also in the Star Ledger regarding ignorance of those issues. Mr. Perkins said that Ms. Parker writes: "*The Multiple Choice Intercollegiate Studies Quiz a quiz of 33 questions that was administered to 2508 randomly selected voters wouldn't deepen the creases in most brains but the questions do require a basic knowledge of how the U.S. Government works. Think fast – in what document do the words, 'government of the people, by the people, for the people' appear? More than twice as many people, 56%, knew that Paula Abdul was a judge on American Idol than knew that those words came from Lincoln's Gettysburg Address; only 21% knew that.*" Mr. Perkins thought that this paragraph speaks volumes and addresses the issue that Dr. Jakubowski addressed. Mr. Manochio asked if the participants in the quiz were high school or college graduates. Mr. Perkins said that the participants were both high school and college graduates. He said that the college graduates did not do very much better than high school graduates and by the way, elected officials did not do as well as non-elected officials. Mr. Perkins said that the scores were an A-90% or greater (participants had to answer at least 30 question of the 33 correctly). He said that only 21 of

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

the 2508 got at least 30 of the answers correct. Mr. Perkins said that 66 individuals got between an 80 and 89.9% correct. He said that 1791 individuals failed the quiz which meant that they scored lower than 60%. Mr. Perkins felt this was absolutely outrageous in his view.

Mr. Manochio said that he attended the holiday concerts at Kawameeh Middle School and Washington Elementary School. He said these were outstanding musical programs performed by the students. Mr. Manochio wanted to compliment the music teachers who worked with the youngsters and who did an outstanding job. Dr. Jakubowski said that all of the district's schools put on outstanding holiday programs. He said that all of the music teachers work very hard with the students and again, this is an example of what the district continues to do. Dr. Jakubowski said that many school districts around the state because of budgetary and regulatory limitations have eliminated instrumental music until students are in the higher grade levels, Union continues to provide instrumental music at the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade level. He said that the students work very hard and that is why Union has competitive bands at both middle schools and it why the high school band can compete with anyone. Dr. Jakubowski said that all students starting in kindergarten have vocal music and the choruses in the third and fourth grade sing in the holiday and spring concerts. He said that the district continues to push the arts and he said that this will continue to happen. Dr. Jakubowski said that even though more Math and Language Arts courses have been added at the middle school level, the district still provides all students the opportunity to take electives such as cooking, clothing, woodshop, art, music, etc. Mrs. Gaglione said that the board has supported all of these different programs because the board believes that all children are different and they need all of those elective choices throughout the school day to keep their attention and something that they find pleasurable.

Ms. Dunn said that she and Mr. Vieira attended a meeting earlier in the day and she wanted to update the board. She said that by January 6<sup>th</sup> all data should be uploaded into the budget module. Ms. Dunn said that today she did not get either good or bad news regarding state figures, but she said that she would be discussing the information with Dr. Jakubowski tomorrow. She said that the one thing she would like the board to know is that the new regulations that will be put into effect, require that at budget time the board is going to have to pass a few unusual types of resolutions. Ms. Dunn said that she would pass them along to the board as they come. She said that one particular one is that the district must come up with an anticipated figure for co-curricular activities by category; such as total band, total hockey, total football, etc. Ms. Dunn said it was going to be an unusual budget process this year and she said

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

that she would keep the board posted. Dr. Jakubowski said that the new regulations are prohibiting teachers and supervisors from going to conventions which require overnight stays because districts cannot pay expenses for overnight accommodations. He said that this will have an impact on everyone and especially on professional development for staff members.

## NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. McNeil said that she attended the tree lighting ceremony in Union. She said that students representing Central-Five and Kawameeh participated in the ceremony. Mrs. McNeil said that she wanted to commend these students as it was a very cold, windy night but the students persevered and they sounded wonderful. She said that our students not only perform in their schools but also for the whole community.

## COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

Mrs. Gaglione on behalf of the entire board wanted to wish everyone a very happy holiday and a happy, healthy new year.

## MOTION TO ADJOURN

There being no further business before the board, it was moved by Mr. Helmstetter, seconded by Mr. Manochio that the meeting be adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

AYE: Mr. Abraham, Mr. Figueiredo, Mr. Helmstetter, Mr. Manochio,  
Mrs. McNeil, Mr. Perkins, Mrs. Salazar and Mrs. Gaglione

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION WAS CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES J. DAMATO  
BOARD SECRETARY