

TO ALL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS:

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Township of Union will be held on Tuesday, February 13, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at Union High School, Union, New Jersey 07083

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Township of Union was held at Union High School on Tuesday, February 13, 2007 at 7 p.m. pursuant to notice sent to each member.

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL: Mr. Gary Abraham, Mrs. Judith Axelrod, Mrs. Linda Gaglione, Mr. Steven Helmstetter, president, Mr. Anthony Manochio, Mrs. Versie McNeil, Mr. Francis Perkins, and Mrs. Judy Salazar

ABSENT AT ROLL CALL: Mr. Steve Ruhl

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mrs. Axelrod that the minutes of the worksession of January 9, 2007 and Regular Meeting of January 16, 2007 be adopted:

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION WAS CARRIED

COMMUNICATIONS:

REQUEST FOR MATERNITY AND UNPAID CHILD REARING LEAVE - SHAH

Monica D. Shah, special education teacher at Union High School, submitted a letter dated January 5, 2007, requesting maternity and unpaid child rearing leave for the period February 24, 2007 through the end of the 2006-2007 school year.

COMMUNICATIONS:

REQUEST FOR MATERNITY AND EXTENDED FAMILY LEAVE – KOHN

Lauren Kohn, resource room teacher at Union High School, submitted a letter requesting maternity and extended family leave for the period January 25, 2007 through the end of the 2006-2007 school year.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION – MANDERICCHIO

Anthony Manderichio, classroom assistant at Battle Hill School, submitted a letter of resignation, effective February 1, 2007.

REQUEST FOR MATERNITY AND UNPAID FAMILY LEAVE – FURMAN

Robyn Furman, math teacher at Burnet Middle School, submitted a letter requesting maternity and unpaid family leave for the period March 26, 2007 through the end of the 2006-2007 school year.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

Dr. Jakubowski introduced Ms. Linda Ionta, Supervisor of Physical Education and Health, to give an overview of the district's Driver Education program. He said that last month there were some questions regarding the Driver Education program and Ms. Ionta was present at the meeting to give an overview of what was part of the curriculum. Ms. Ionta stated that the district's Driver Education curriculum is actually the Sophomore Health component. She said that it is a nine-week course, which is a minimum of thirty (30) hours of classroom instruction. Ms. Ionta said that it is based on book work. She distributed a copy of the curriculum and curriculum overview to the board members. Ms. Ionta said that she had broken down the curriculum to give the board information on exactly how the course runs. She said that the information also includes the instructional objectives. Ms. Ionta said that the teachers spend a minimum of thirty (30) hours going over all facets of the driver education manual put out by the State of New Jersey. She said that D.A.R.E. officers from Union Township Police Department also come into the classes once or twice and they speak to the students about police stops, the graduated license, drug and alcohol related issues and they employ the "fatal vision" goggles in the classroom. Ms. Ionta said that at the end of May (during prom week) a program is offered to all students at the high school which involves all community services participating such as the coroner, representatives from the State and County Police Departments, etc. and this program is an awareness during prom week to say "don't drink and drive; be aware of what you are doing and be aware of what is going on

around you.” She said that the driver education curriculum is focused on bookwork and current events. Ms. Ionta stated that each student is required once a week to bring in a current event article about something that has happened. She said that the students spend time focusing on the current events. Ms. Ionta said that next year there will be a new book entitled *Responsible Driving* will be integrated into the curriculum to supplement the driver education manual. She said that at the end of the course, the district offers each student the opportunity to take the New Jersey State Driver Education written test and if a student does not pass this written test, the student has one week to restudy and retake the test. She said from that point on the students must go to Motor Vehicle to obtain a driving permit. Dr. Jakubowski asked if any board members had questions for Ms. Ionta. Mr. Perkins stated that he had met with Mr. Gibbons, principal of Union High School and Ms. Ionta last week to discuss tonight’s presentation and to discuss what the district is doing with driver education. He said that in reviewing the content of the current Motor Vehicle Commission manual, he was very disappointed and after having discussions with Ms. Ionta and others, he was very happy that a new text was being put in to supplement the curriculum. Mr. Perkins asked Ms. Ionta what role the grade in the driver education course plays in the overall grade point average of the student and whether passage of the New Jersey Driver’s License Examination is a requirement for the course or whether there are other examinations given during the course. Ms. Ionta said that passage of the New Jersey Driver’s License Examination is not a requirement to pass the course. She said that throughout the nine-week course, tests are given on a weekly basis and the State Driver License Examination is offered to the students, but this is not the final test for the course. Ms. Ionta said that the teachers also offer their own final test for passage of the course. Mr. Perkins asked if Driver Education was a required course. Ms. Ionta said that Driver Education is not a required course – Health is required. She said that there are only three school district in Union County that do not offer Driver Education course work, but it is not a state requirement to offer any type of driver education training. Mr. Perkins said that he recalls after looking at the CORE curriculum standards, the only thing required in the CORE Curriculum standards is that students be able to discuss safety considerations with regard to the operation of motor vehicles. He said that an individual does not have to take a qualified course to obtain a license. Mr. Perkins said that “young adult” road that can begin when an individual is seventeen years old or the “early bird” road can start at age sixteen. Ms. Ionta said that she has spoken to the D.A.R.E. officers regarding the graduated license. She said that there is confusion everywhere. Ms. Ionta said that the police officers are under the impression that having too

many people in a vehicle is not a "primary" offense and they will not stop a vehicle for that reason. She said that this is an issue that is discussed with the students by the police officers during the driver education course. Ms. Ionta said that the Union Police Officers have not been instructed to stop vehicles for too many occupants as a primary offense. Mr. Perkins said that he did have a proposal that he would like to discuss with the board but he would present that information later in the meeting. Mr. Manochio asked if a seventeen year old student would be entitled to a driver's license that allows him/her to drive with one person in the car. Ms. Ionta said that a seventeen year old can drive with family members, that is anyone who lives in the teen's home, and only one outside person, that is a minor, can be in the car. Mr. Manochio asked if at sixteen an individual can obtain a permit and with a permit the individual must have a licensed driver in the vehicle. Ms. Ionta stated that this was correct and after an individual gets their permit, they must also take six hours of "behind the wheel" with a driving school. Mr. Manochio asked if at eighteen years of age a "regular" license is obtained. Ms. Ionta said that there was some confusion with the graduated license and a loophole existed which allowed individuals to obtain a license without taking the driver education test. Mrs. Gaglione said that the regulation is that an individual will get his/her regular license one year after the provision license is obtained and not necessarily when they turn eighteen.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON RESOLUTIONS ON THE AGENDA

Ms. Ciampi said that Brian Sheridan being hired as a security monitor and asked why it indicated that he would be replacing Michael Scanlon at Union High School. She was under the impression that Mr. Scanlon worked at Central-Five. Dr. Jakubowski said that Mr. Sheridan would be assigned to Union High School and a transfer would be made and have someone put at Kawameeh Middle School as a security monitor. Ms. Ciampi asked why the district wasn't doing an "even swap". Dr. Jakubowski said that he wanted to institute an "in-school suspension" program in the middle schools and there are a few individuals who have experience with that and he believed it would be in the best interest of the district to make transfers. Ms. Ciampi stated that Mr. Scanlon was on an unpaid leave and asked what would happen if he decides to come back. Dr. Jakubowski said that if Mr. Scanlon decides to come back to the district, it will depend of other factors and it will be decided at that time. Ms. Ciampi said she was curious because the district was replacing him. Dr. Jakubowski said the district is replacing Mr. Scanlon in the same way that it replaces teachers who are on maternity leave.

EDUCATION/STUDENT DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE

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

E-1. AMEND 2006-2007 OUT-OF-DISTRICT ATYPICAL STUDENT PLACEMENT LIST

That the 2006-2007 Out-of-District Atypical Student Placement List, students exited from Out-of-District Placement and Out-of-District Tuition Lists be amended in accordance with the information appended to the non public portion of these minutes.

E-2. AMEND LIST OF STUDENTS REMOVED FROM THE ROLLS

That approval be given to amend the list of students removed from the rolls [nine (9) students exited during the period January 1, 2007 through January 31, 2007; a total of forty-five (45) students have been exited for the 2006-2007 school year] who are not domiciled in this school district in accordance with the information appended to the non public portion of these minutes.

E-3. APPROVE SCHOOL, TWELVE MONTH EMPLOYEE AND MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT CALENDARS FOR 2007-2008

That the board approve school calendar; twelve month employee calendar and the maintenance department calendar for the 2007-2008 school year.

E-4. ADOPT FORMAL RESOLUTION – YOUTH ART MONTH 2007

That the board adopt formal resolution proclaiming the month of March 2007 as "Youth Art Month 2007" in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

E-5. APPROVE SEVENTH GRADE GIFTED AND TALENTED TRIP – KAWAMEEH AND BURNET MIDDLE SCHOOLS

That the board approve twenty-eight (28) Seventh Grade Gifted and Talented students from Burnet and Kawameeh Middle Schools and four professional staff chaperones to attend Scholastica Travel Tour to Boston, Plymouth and Salem, Massachusetts from May 30th to June 1st, 2007 in accordance with the information appended to these minutes. [Costs of this

trip (\$435 per student) will be paid entirely by each individual student; only cost to the district will be for substitutes to cover chaperones.)

EDUCATION/STUDENT DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE

E-6. APPROVE ATTENDANCE AT CAMP PATRIOT CADET LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE CAMP – UNION HIGH SCHOOL AJROTC

That the board approve approximately 25 Union High School AJROTC students, two faculty members and one female chaperone to attend Camp Patriot Cadet Leadership Challenge Camp at Fort Dix, New Jersey from June 25th to June 29th, 2007 at a cost of \$25 per student or not to exceed \$625 (this is a budgeted item).

E-7. AMEND LIST OF FULL TIME STUDENTS ATTENDING UNION COUNTY VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL FOR 2006-2007 SCHOOL YEAR

That the board amend list of full time students attending Union County Vocational-Technical High School for the 2006-2007 school year in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Abraham asked if Dr. Jakubowski would review the 2007-2008 school calendar for the audience. Dr. Jakubowski said that next year's school calendar is quite similar to that of the last few years. He reviewed the school calendar a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Dr. Jakubowski said that the only major change in the calendar is that Easter falls very early next year and students will have off for Good Friday on March 21st and their spring recess will not be until the week of April 21st. He said that the last day of school will tentatively be June 18th, 2008 and there are days listed in case there are snow days listed. Dr. Jakubowski stated that the school calendar will be included in the Districtwide Newsletter that will be sent out before the budget election so that parents can make vacation plans for next year.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION WAS CARRIED

FISCAL AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

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

F-1. ACCEPT TREASURER'S REPORT

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 13, 2007

That the Treasurer's Report dated January 31st, 2007 be accepted.

FISCAL AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

F-2. ACCEPT SECRETARY'S REPORT

That the Secretary's Report dated January 31st, 2007 be accepted.

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

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(a), I certify that as of January 31st, 2007 no budgetary line item account has obligations and payments (contractual orders) which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the district board of education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8 and 18:22-8.1.

James J. Damato, Board Secretary

Dated

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.2(h), we certify that as of January 31st, 2006 after review of the secretary's monthly financial report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials that to the best of our knowledge no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.2(d)3 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year. This certification is solely based on the information provided by the School Business Administrator and Board Secretary and is assumed by the board to be correct.

F-4. APPROVE LINE ITEM TRANSFERS

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

F-5. CONCUR WITH THE INVESTMENTS

That the Board concur with the investments made by the Business Administrator:

Mature Date	Purchase Date	Number of Days	Amount	Invest. Held by	Home A/C Account	Interest Rate	Estimated Income
02/13/07	01/16/07	28	900,000	Commerce	UCNB Café	5.20%	3,640.00
02/13/07	01/16/07	28	1,000,000	Commerce	Unity Bank SUI	5.20%	4,044.44
02/13/07	01/16/07	28	1,000,000	Commerce	UCNB CAP Reserve	5.20%	4,044.44
02/13/07	01/16/07	28	16,000,000	Chase	UCNB OP AC	5.22%	64,960.00
02/13/07	01/16/07	28	4,000,000	Commerce	UCNB Jan03 Bon	5.20%	16,177.78

FISCAL AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

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 in the hands of each board member: (a) Forest Lodge - \$1,300 – Student Council – Kawameeh Middle School; (b) 3-J Fundraising - \$13,115.15 – Student Council – Kawameeh Middle School; (c) U.C.I.A.C. - \$5,366 – UHS Athletic Association – Ticket sales for county wrestling tournament – Union High School Athletic Department; (d) N.J.S.I.A.A. - \$10,000 – estimated ticket sales – Wrestling Regions State Tournament – Union High School Athletic Department; (e) Audio, Inc. - \$2,559.47 – sound system for school play – Burnet Middle School

F-7. 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)*

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 DISTRICTWIDE TRAVEL AND RELATED EXPENSES PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF *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.A.C. 6A:23B* and Board Policy File Codes 4133, 4440 and 9250 and in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

F-9. APPROVE FISCAL YEAR 2007 GRANT ACCEPTANCE CERTIFICATE (GAC) FOR PERKINS SECONDARY GRANT

That the Board approve Fiscal Year 2007 Grant Acceptance Certification (GAC) for Perkins Secondary Grant in the amount of \$34,747 in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

F-10. APPROVE TRANSFER OF DEPA FUNDS

That the Board approve transfer of DEPA funds from extension 15812, program 0121 and extension 15608 program 0124 to extension 15611 program 0129 DEPA TRANS ESPA to cover transportation costs due to energy increases in the amount of \$10,082.50 in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

FISCAL AND PLANNING COMMITTEE
DISCUSSION

None

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION WAS CARRIED

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

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

O-1. AUTHORIZE POLL HOURS FOR ANNUAL BOARD OF EDUCATION/
BUDGET ELECTION

That the Board authorize polls to be open from 2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for the Annual Board of Education/Budget Election on Tuesday, April 17, 2007.

O-2. APPROVE CONTINGENCY CHANGE ORDER #1 – ENVIRONCON, LLC

That the Board approve Contingency Change Order #1 for Environcon, LLC, 490 Schooleys Mountain Road, Hackettstown, NJ 07840 for unused contingency allowance in connection with HVAC upgrades at Burnet Middle School in the credit amount of 9,225 in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

O-3. APPROVE ADVERTISEMENT FOR DISPOSAL OF EQUIPMENT

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

DISCUSSION:

None

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION WAS CARRIED

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

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

P-1. APPROVE PERSONNEL ACTIONS

That the Board approve personnel actions in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

P-2. AMEND SUBSTITUTE LISTS

That the February, 2007 Substitute/Home Instruction List, substitute custodians and substitute playground/ cafeteria aides, classroom assistants and secretaries be approved in accordance with the copy appended to these minutes.

P-3. ACCEPT LETTERS OF RESIGNATION

That the board accept letters of resignation from the following staff:
(a) Anthony Manderichio, classroom assistant at Battle Hill School, effective February 1, 2007.

P-4. APPROVE MATERNITY AND UNPAID CHILD REARING LEAVE – SHAH

That the board approve maternity and unpaid child rearing leave for Monica D. Shah, special education teacher at Union High School for the period February 24, 2007 through the end of the 2006-2007 school year.

P-5. APPROVE PAYMENT TO STAFF FOR GEPA TUTORIAL – BURNET MIDDLE SCHOOL

That the board approve payment to staff for GEPA tutorial at Burnet Middle School for the period January 16, 2007 through March 8, 2007 at a rate of \$33.75 per session: (a) Michelle Barsi, (b) Joao Bernardes, (c) Robyn Furman, (d) Jillian Gaglione, (e) Robert Ghiretti, (f) Catherine Holdwright, (g) Kevin O'Brien and (h) Ian Penny.

P-6. APPROVE PAYMENT TO STAFF FOR FAMILY SCIENCE – CENTRAL-FIVE/JEFFERSON SCHOOL

That the board approve payment to the following staff for Family Science sessions at Central Five School on January 31st, February 7th, February 14th, February 21st and February 28th, 2007 at a rate of \$500 per person: (a) Kathleen Pellerito and (b) Laurence Petras.

P-7. APPROVE PAYMENT TO STAFF FOR PREPARATION OF 2007 GRADUATION BOOKLETS – UNION HIGH SCHOOL

That the board approve payment to the following staff for preparation of 2007 Union High School graduation booklets at a rate of \$600 per person: (a) Gerri Muller, (b) Regina Pfarr and (c) John Schaffer

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

P-8. APPROVE MATERNITY AND EXTENDED FAMILY LEAVE – KOHN

That the board approve maternity and extended family leave to Lauren Kohn, resource room teacher at Union High School, for the period January 25, 2007 through the end of the 2006-2007 school year.

P-9. APPROVE SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER – FAVER

That the board approve Edward T. Faver, Sign Language Interpreter, at a rate of \$50 per hour, not to exceed \$1,000 for the period February 1st through June 30th, 2007.

P-10. APPROVE MATERNITY AND EXTENDED FAMILY LEAVE- FURMAN

That the board approve maternity and extended family leave to Robyn Furman, math teacher at Burnet Middle School, for the period March 26, 2007 through the end of the 2006-2007 school year.

P-11. APPROVE PAYMENT FOR CPR FOR PROFESSIONAL RESCUERS CLASS- MAMORY

That the board approve payment to Sandy Mamory, to conduct CPR for professional rescuers class on February 16, 2007 for 11 school nurses at a rate of \$40 per hour not to exceed 5 hours or \$200.

P-12. APPROVE CURRICULUM WRITING TEAMS

That the board approve the following curriculum writing teams at a per person compensation rate of \$20 per hour, not to exceed 15 hours or \$300: ESL – GRADES 6-8: Christina Fasanella and Martha Recalde; TECHNOLOGY – GRADES 6-8: Linda Steeb, Len Materese and Sue Barsnica; GIFTED AND TALENTED – GRADE 3: Cindy Attanassi, Linda Dimakos, Larry Petras and Patricia Wiggins and COMPUTER – GRADE K-8: Jennifer Donnelly, Sue Barsnica and Katie Snyder

P-13. APPROVE PAYMENT TO STAFF FOR PRESENTING/FACILITATING AT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY – FEBRUARY 16, 2007

That the board approve payment to staff members for preparation for presenting/facilitating at February 16th Professional Development Day at a per person compensation rate of \$40 per hour not to exceed ten (10) hours or \$400 in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

P-14. APPROVE PAYMENT TO STAFF FOR PRESENTING INSERVICE COURSES

That the board approve payment to staff members for presenting

Inservice Courses at a per person compensation rate of \$40 per hour in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

P-15. ACCEPT PART-TIME TRANSPORTATION EMPLOYEES MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

That the board accept Part Time Transportation Employees Memorandum of Agreement in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

P-16. AUTHORIZE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION TEAM TO CONDUCT NEED ASSESSMENT AND DEVELOP COMPREHENSIVE EQUITY PLAN

That the board authorizing the Affirmative Action Team to conduct the needs assessment and develop a comprehensive equity plan in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

DISCUSSION:

None

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None MOTION WAS CARRIED

APPROVE BILLS

Moved by Mrs. Gaglione, seconded by Mr. Abraham 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, Mrs. Axelrod, Mrs. Gaglione, Mr. Manochio, Mrs. McNeil, Mr. Perkins, Mrs. Salazar and Mr. Helmstetter

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None MOTION WAS CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Perkins said that at the last board meeting he had expressed personal grief and upset at the loss of four lives in Freehold Township and unfortunately there have been two more deaths in Lopatcong Township

over the weekend. He said that after the article regarding this accident

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

appeared in the Star Ledger on January 20th, he exchanged e-mails with the author of the article and it was noted that within the preceding thirty days eleven people had lost their lives in New Jersey as a result of incidents involving teen drivers. Mr. Perkins said that he speculated that if eleven people were killed in any other manner as a result of the actions of teens such as school violence all the major news organizations would be covering the incident and the State would be in an uproar and the governor would be inundated. He said that interestingly the article in the today's Star Ledger concerning the Lopatcong accident appeared at the bottom of page 37. Mr. Perkins said that cause of this accident was speed and the vehicle was broken in two. He said that many in the community remember an incident in Union which occurred on Mischief Night in 2000 in which two young women, who were students at Union High School, lost their lives in an horrific incident on Morris Avenue. Mr. Perkins stated that the vehicle in that case was split in two and it was clear that a high rate of speed to have caused this accident. He said that he has had discussions with the mother of one of those students in the past week talking about the effect of having lost a child. He said that the Star Ledger article of January 20th stated: *"Of the many reasons for everyone to be concerned about teens and cars the biggest is this. From 1995 to 2004, new teen drivers were involved in crashes that killed 30,917 people nationwide. About one third were the drivers, the rest were us; kids riding bicycles, people out walking, other drivers obeying the speed limit."* Mr. Perkins stated that additionally the driver of the automobile in Freehold had two other people in the car. He said that a person with a provisional driver's license is not supposed to have more than one other person in the car who is not a member of his/her household. Mr. Perkins said that routinely young students will come out of school, and load a car with their friends and take off. He said that in the incident that occurred in Union the driver, who survived, later said that the vehicle had two other people in it, they had the radio going with recorded music which was *"really loud"*. The author of the article quoted Pam Fisher of the Automobile Association of NJ (AAA) who characterized teen car crashes as a *"community problem"* and Ms. Fisher also commented that *"drivers' education hasn't kept pace with conditions."* Mr. Perkins said that this was the reason that he has spoken to Mr. Gibbons and Ms. Ionta about the district's driver education program and conversations with AAA about what the district can do to reinforce its driver education program at Union High School. He said that after reviewing the official NJ Driver Education Manual he found it was rather disappointing but he felt that experienced drivers should go through the manual to see what is not included. Mr.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Perkins said that there is not much about "driver safety" included in this manual. He stated that the manual was not very comprehensive and he applauded the fact that a new textbook was also being integrated into the course. Mr. Perkins stated that the author of the Star Ledger article also opined that *"teen vanity may demand a show-off car and the grown up in the equation, the parent, should think for a minute about the rest of us."* He said he was not sure what cars were being driven by students at Union High School but he did know what cars were being driven by students at other high schools and they are in most cases, new, powerful stick shift automobiles that take a really experienced driver to know how to drive well. Mr. Perkins stated that Mom and Dad may feel that junior deserves this car and then go and buy a rocket; the student can hardly ride a bicycle properly and the student goes out and kills someone. He said that this has happened time after time. Mr. Perkins said that the article continues *"New Jersey's graduated license rules are all but ignored by kids. Before and after school, going to and from games, kids pile in and out in full view of everybody, school officials, police and parents. Fisher is again quoted as saying 'as the kids know no one is enforcing the rules'"* Mr. Perkins stated that he and Ms. Ionta just commented on whether a police officer has the ability to stop a vehicle on the suspicion that the people in the vehicle exceed the number permitted under the provisional driver license rules. He said that the Attorney General has opined that it is so but it apparently is taking some time to get down to the people who do the work on the roads, but it will happen. Mr. Perkins said that he included in the material that he distributed to the board a press release from the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office that came out last Friday, in which the Prosecutor announced the issuance of a summons to another driver that was present during the time of the accident in Freehold. He said that the Prosecutor, in his press release, refrained from saying that the other driver was racing with the driver who collided with the school vehicle, but that's what was happening. Mr. Perkins said he thought that anyone who had any sense of things and read this press release it could be concluded that was pretty much what was happening. He said that the driver of the second vehicle admitted to driving at least 70 mph in a 50 mph zone. Mr. Perkins said that the second driver was formally charged last week with reckless driving, a maximum \$200 fine, up to 60 days in a suitable juvenile institution, a discretionary license revocation and five points on his license or speeding in excess of 20 mph over the speed limit, a maximum of \$200 fine and up to fifteen days in a suitable juvenile institution, a discretionary license revocation and four points on his license. Mr. Perkins said that this was the

one that most students would be interested in because it absolutely nothing to do with how the individual was driving, that is a provisional license violation which is up to \$100 fine, loss of his provisional license for three months and postponement of eligibility for his basis driver license for an equivalent period of time. He said that in other words, if an individual has a provisional driver's license, and no one under 18 has anything but, and the individual has more than one other person in his/her vehicle whose is not in that person's household, it is a \$100 fine and a license suspension for three months. Mr. Perkins said that he challenged the board and himself as a member of the board to do the following: To do all we can as a board of education with deliberate speed and determination to educate those young drivers who are our students, in our school, regarding the responsibilities to themselves and to others in the operation of a motor vehicle, to provide them with the incentives and tools to become safe and responsible drivers and to emphasize through the development of appropriate district policies the seriousness with which we, as a school district and as a community, will implement our intolerance for irresponsible operation of motor vehicles by these students. Mr. Perkins stated that there are two things that he thought the district could do; the first was to do what Mr. Gibbons, Ms. Ionta and he started talking about and that is reviewing the curriculum, reviewing the district's driver education program, lobbying people in Trenton, talking to people at the Motor Vehicle Commission and the district doing what it can to make a driver education program a really meaningful program. He saw this as a long term project which may take a year or two before the district has meaningful results. Mr. Perkins said that there is something that can be done immediately. He proposed that the board revise its policies regarding student parking in the student section of the policy manual in a way that emphasizes the district's concern. Mr. Perkins said that right now the Union High School Student Handbook requires the issuance and holding of a permit for a student to park in the school parking lot which costs \$1.25 or \$1.50 but there are no rules or regulations surrounding it. He stated that he wanted to present his proposal and seek input from many people; he has sent this proposal to many including police officers and municipal officials to get feedback. Mr. Perkins stated he proposed that every student wishing to park a car on school property including the high school parking lot, the field house or anywhere else, shall be required to obtain a parking permit within two weeks of the adoption of the revised board policy. Any student who now has a permit will be required to exchange that permit for a new permit within the same period of time. The permit shall be valid for only the vehicle for which it was issued and shall not be transferable. As a

condition for obtaining a permit, each student will be required to execute an agreement of compliance. The policy shall require that the student's parent or guardian, regardless of the student's age, also execute the agreement, acknowledging its conditions, and if the parent or the student is not the registered owner of the vehicle, the registered owner, as well. The agreement must be executed before a school official or a notary, who shall witness the signatures. The agreement will, among other things, set out the provisional driver license regulations, require that the student represent that he or she is familiar with such regulations, will promise to comply with such regulations and otherwise operate his/her vehicle in a safe and responsible manner on school property. Mr. Perkins commented that the driver of the vehicle involved in the fatality of two Union High School Students in 2000 indeed had an accident in the high school parking lot. He said that the permit in his conceived scheme would be invoked for those infractions as well. Mr. Perkins stated that the agreement would also require the granting by the student, parent and registered owner of advanced consent for inspection, inside and out, of the vehicle by school authorities. He said that as a condition being permitted to park their vehicle on school property, the owner, the driver, the parent are agreeing that it can be inspected, inside and out, as a condition for the parking. Mr. Perkins said that if upon inspection, the student's vehicle is found to be occupied by others not permitted in the vehicle by the provisional drivers license regulations, whether the vehicle is actually being operated or not, the parking permit shall be suspended for a period of thirty days and upon a second occurrence of such a violation, the permit shall be permanently revoked. He said additionally if the inspection reveals the presence of controlled dangerous substances, alcohol or weapons, the permit shall be immediately and permanently revoked. Mr. Perkins further stated that any student vehicle found on the property of the board of education without a properly issued and valid parking permit shall be removed by tow truck to the municipal impound area and the cost of the recovery of the vehicle shall be either borne by the student or his/her family. He stated that this is a fairly aggressive approach to things but there have been eleven deaths in the thirty days immediately preceding January 10th as a result of teen driving. Mr. Perkins said that this community experienced the grief of losing some of our own children and he thought it was justified. He said that during the investigation of one circumstance and talking about the vehicle being driven by a teen driver, another teen who was a classmate said that he used to ride home with the individual and one night while going around a turn, the vehicle fishtailed and drove recklessly and the teen screamed for him to stop, he got out of the vehicle and he refused to

ride with him anymore. Mr. Perkins said that if our students can't agree to drive responsibly and in accordance with the regulations and the law, then they ought not be permitted to park on the district's premises. He admitted that this is not all that the district can do and students should not be permitted to drive to school unless they will agree and live by the terms and conditions of the compliance agreement which is being proposed. Mr. Perkins said that he is seeking the comment and input of everyone in the community. He said that the board really must do something about this problem. Dr. Jakubowski said that he knew that Mr. Perkins had already spoken to Mr. Gibbons and Ms. Ionta and he had done the same. He said that the Central Office will work hand in hand with the Board of Education so that it can develop something that is reasonable and effective. Dr. Jakubowski said that the district will certainly try to educate parents and make sure that they know what is going on and put the information on the website. He said that Mr. Gibbons has put the daily bulletin on the high school website and he has been trying to reach out to parents in a more positive or aggressive way and once the policy has been decided, it will be distributed to parents as well as post it on the website so everyone has a clear understanding of what the district is hoping to do. Dr. Jakubowski stated that the district wants to be preventative and assist our students in any way that we can. He told Mr. Perkins that he had the support of the Central Office in his proposal.

Dr. Jakubowski said that with some of the changes at Union High School, he has been meeting regularly with Mr. Gibbons and last week he had a meeting with all of the Vice Principals in both the high school and the middle schools to talk about things that the district wants to do. He was very pleased with the progress of the new organizational chart at Union High School and he wanted to compliment Mr. Gibbons.

Dr. Jakubowski stated that the State Report Card came out this past week and he briefly wanted to discuss same. He said that he was very pleased with the high school's results. Dr. Jakubowski said that over the past few days he has taken the State Report Card results for the past four or five years and looked at where the district is, where the district was then and where the district is going. He said that is looked at the SAT scores and saw that there are many districts in Union County that the district has passed who two or three years ago had higher SAT scores on an average that Union had. Dr. Jakubowski stated that because of the size of our district, the sixty-five or seventy percent is more students taking the SAT's than eighty percent of the school districts in Union County have students in

the grade that are eligible to take the SAT's. He said that Union's top twenty-five percent, based on the number of students who take the test, is higher than seven districts in Union County, have students in the particular grade that even take the test. Dr. Jakubowski stated that Union's twenty-five percent is being compared to the entire student body in particular places. He said at the elementary level he wanted to note that every elementary school in the district passed forty of forty indicators. He said that in several elementary schools, there were a number of arrows going in a positive direction, in particular, Hannah Caldwell School has a positive arrow in every area. Dr. Jakubowski said that some people asked why more schools did not have asterisks and he said that it was important to understand that before a school can get an asterisk, it must have forty out of forty indicators for more than one year. He said that the district's scores are also deceiving because of the size of the district, it is held accountable for more indicators than any other school district in Union County except Elizabeth and Union is tied with the highest amount of indicators that we are held accountable for with any school district in the State of New Jersey and there is no school district that must meet more of the forty indicators than Union does. Dr. Jakubowski said that what this means is that the district must have a base number to be included as an indicator. He said that there are many school districts throughout the State of New Jersey that do not have the base of twenty whether it be for an ethnicity, students on free or reduced lunch or special education, etc. Dr. Jakubowski stated that our district is held accountable for virtually seventy-five to eighty percent of the indicators at all levels. He said that when individuals view the State Report Card they should understand that the larger the district is, the more challenging it is when the district is held accountable for every indicator sometimes it is tough to meet them all. Dr. Jakubowski said that all teachers, administrators and students have dealt with the challenges very well. He said that he is really proud of the progress that the district is making and continues to make. Dr. Jakubowski encouraged the public to review the State Report Card and if anyone had any questions, they could telephone him.

Dr. Jakubowski thanked Mr. Damato and Ms. Dunn for their hard work in negotiating the new agreement with the part-time transportation people.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Jakubowski said that when the HSPA test is given in the eleventh grade all of the other students (grades 9, 10 and 12) except for those 12th

graders who must still take the test come to school late. He said that

provisions are made for those students whose parents must drop them off earlier but in general, the test must be given in a building that is as quiet as possible and many teachers are needed to proctor the test. Dr. Jakubowski said that as he has been looking at the middle school test, when the 8th grade GEPA test is given, there are only so many proctors needed and it is fine that all students are present in the building. He said that in meeting with Mr. Salvatore and Mr. Bell, they are looking at the 6th and 7th grade test which will be given at the same time to two thirds of the school, and in looking at the proctors that will be necessary to give the test there is some concern and he may be coming to the board to say that it is in the best interest of everyone if the 8th graders come to school later, which is very similar with the high school schedule. Dr. Jakubowski said that this would also have to be coordinated with the transportation department and provisions will also be made for those parents who must drop their students off at the regular time. He said that he wanted to make sure that there was an appropriate number of teachers available for proctoring as certified teachers must be used to administer these tests.

Ms. McNeil said that February is Black History Month and she wanted to let the community know that all district schools are involved in various programs, displays and classroom instruction on the topic of African-American contributions past and present. She wanted to thank the administration and the teachers for instituting these programs and letting the community that the district is committed on the topic of diversity. Ms. McNeil said that she hoped some of the programs are being aired on Channel 34 as this would be nice for the public to view. She thanked Mrs. Lombardi and Dr. Jakubowski for sharing this information with her.

Dr. Jakubowski said that if the public has been following what has been going on in Trenton with regard to tax levy and budgets, etc. He stated that there is talk right now that the increase in the budget will be a 4% increase on the tax levy and not on the entire budget. Dr. Jakubowski said that this will have a drastic effect on this school district. He said that the district is fortunate enough to get a percentage of its budget from state aid and he thanked the elected officials in Trenton and in the local communities for their support for the district to get state aid. Dr. Jakubowski stated that the district also uses its excess surplus, whatever is generated throughout the year in revenue, to help offset the budget. He said that approximately 65% of the budget comes from the Township's tax structure. Dr. Jakubowski said that if, in fact, it is decided that only a 4% increase in the budget can be on the tax levy that will have a dramatic

effect on this school district and the district will start with a deficit of approximately \$1.4 to \$1.6 million in the budget which is the difference between 4% of the district's overall budget and 4% on the tax levy. He said that the only way the district will be able to handle this would be through staffing. Dr. Jakubowski suggested that the community take an active role and reach out to their elected officials to let them know what a negative impact this change will have on the school district. Ms. Dunn said that it was important for the residents of Union to know and she urged residents to contact their elected officials regarding these issues. She said that the easiest way to contact legislators or the governor's office is by e-mail. Ms. Dunn said that a 4% cap on the tax levy will create a problem with the budget and will be an automatic decrease and although it will save for property tax relief but it creates many "holes" because the district has mandated increases such as collective bargaining agreements, insurance premium increases and energy cost increases, that cannot be accounted for within the 4%. She said that she would be attending a meeting tomorrow where Assembly Bill A-1 will be discussed. Ms. Dunn stated that this bill is going to the governor's desk and she said that the district is also trying to work with the Department of Education in terms of any code or law changes that may give the district some flexibility when preparing the budget. Dr. Jakubowski said that the state legislatures and assemblymen have been very good to the district when the district has reached out to them in the past to get some help with state aid. He wanted to make sure that the community understands that the difference between the 4% cap on the tax levy versus the 4% on the overall budget. Dr. Jakubowski stated that this will have a significant impact on this district. He said that there are still only two districts in Union County that spend less per student than this district and this district's administrative cost is the lowest in the County. Dr. Jakubowski said that the teachers' salaries in Union are competitive. Mr. Abraham said that taking a look at the State Report Card there are four DE districts in Union County, which is Union's factor group, and in that group Union is the lowest in cost per pupil and based upon the State average, the cost per pupil for the State is \$11,628 and Union's average is \$9,993 which is \$1635 less than the State average. He said that the district's administrative cost per pupil is \$1,031 compared to the State average of \$1257 which is \$226 below the State average. Mr. Abraham stated that 66% of this district's budget is funded locally. Dr. Jakubowski said that if this district had a cost per pupil at the state average its budget would be \$12,800,000 higher than it is now and this would only bring Union to the State average. He said that the district has been fiscally responsible to the community in the past.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Gaglione wanted to comment on the Student Council Awards and congratulate Ms. Getsinger at Union High School and Mrs. Wiecezak Kawameeh Middle School. She said that Student Council was always an important part of her life while at Kawameeh and the high school and has helped her throughout her life to learn about government, leadership and responsibility. Mrs. Gaglione said that students who are involved in Student Council should continue to be involved. Dr. Jakubowski said that representatives from the High School Student Council will be attending the regular board meeting to give the public an update of what is happening at the high school and he was advised by Ms. Getsinger that a Union High School student has once again been elected as an Official of the State Student Council.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Ms. Ditri stated that she along with Ms. Dowson are the co-directors of the Burnet Middle School Drama Club and she was present at the meeting to invite the board members as well as the public to attend the spring musical which will be held on March 2nd and 3rd. She said that *Annie Jr.* is the play that will be presented and performances are at 7 p.m at the Burnet Middle School Auditorium and tickets were \$7 and they can be purchased at Burnet Middle School or at the door. Ms. Ditri said that she hoped to see everyone from the community attending. She said that the children have been working so very hard for two months and it would be great to have a full house for the performances.

Ms. Gilcrist said that she had attended the December meeting and spoke about her son who is a student at Union High School. She said that she had been told that she would receive a phone call which she never did and she understood that everyone was busy but the problem that she was having was that she did not understand all of the "envelopes" that she is receiving at home in regard to what she considered "immature and petty" discipline. Ms. Gilcrist said that she was a single parent and she must do everything. She said that when her son gets a Saturday detention because her son's "face does not appear to be what a teacher thinks it should be" she must rearrange her schedule, she does not really understand that. Ms. Gilcrist said that Mr. Hamburg has been the first person to have shown

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

such interest in her son and because of that things have been 70% different. She said that when she comes into the school office, instead of the administrator just taking what the teacher says, making the teacher "right" and the student "wrong", they now give her son an opportunity to explain what has happened and her son is getting less detentions now. Ms. Gilcrist said that she cannot keep up with bringing her son for Saturday detention because of a "personality" issue. She said that if her son does something wrong and he is at fault that she believes and feels that he should be responsible for, he will be held accountable. Ms. Gilcrist said that you would have to give her a better reason for her son to get Saturday detention other than "the teacher did not like his face or his personality." She thanked Mr. Hamburg for his help. Ms. Gilcrist said that she agreed with Perkins regarding the driver education issue. She said that she was a UPS employee for ten years and they gave incentives such as, if you wear your seat belt you will get a bonus at the end of the year. Ms. Gilcrist said that sometimes it takes an "incentive" and not a "punishment" to get children motivated. Dr. Jakubowski said that after he had met with Ms. Gilcrist, he did speak to Mr. Hamburg and he said he had spoken to her that same day and he thought everything was being handled at the high school and that is why he did not call her back. Dr. Jakubowski suggested that Ms. Gilcrist reach out to Mr. Gibbons, the principal of the high school, and go over her concerns. Ms. Gilcrist said that she would do that and because of what Mr. Hamburg has done, she was not "that bothered" anymore and if there is something else she needed to address, she would contact the principal. Mr. Manochio asked what the 70% improvement covered. Ms. Gilcrist said that there was 70% improvement in her son's grades and when her son comes home, his conversation with her has improved. She said that her son now feels that someone believes in him as opposed to being against him. Mr. Manochio asked if her son's detention has also curtailed. Ms. Gilcrist said that as far as the detention goes, she felt that she would have to speak to the principal about it because she would like to let him make the decision if the detention is appropriate for the reason it was given. She felt her son was better overall.

Ms. Hall said that she had the opportunity of seeing the Burnet Middle School show last year and it was fabulous but she was at the meeting to ask the board to consider making the weekend of March 2nd and 3rd a true "theatre" weekend because Kawameeh Middle School is also presenting their show that weekend, due to circumstances that could not

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

be changed. She said that Kawameeh Middle School is presenting Rogers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella* and it promises to be a great show. Ms. Hall invited the board and the public to attend the show.

Ms. Ciampi said that she grew up in New York and at sixteen years old she was able to get a driver's license. She was wondering if the district might look into a simulated driving program in the future. Ms. Ciampi said she knew that Liberty Mutual Insurance Company has teen videos that are free and there are other companies that will also oblige and come in to speak to the students. She said that in order to get a New York license you must take a defensive driving course and that was most impressive to her.

Ms. Ciampi said that parents are driving models for their children and it is very important to have them included in the process as they get older. She thought that it was important that they had rules in the school system. Ms. Ciampi said that if a policy is established and the punishment is not parking on school property for thirty (30) days for an infraction, she thought in those thirty days there should also must have some type of process to go through before their privileges are restored, aside of driver's education. She agreed with Mr. Perkins regarding this issue. Ms. Ciampi said that she applauded Mr. Perkins for being proactive in this instance. Ms. Ciampi asked if the board could put an "alert" letter on the webpage to sign and send through with their e-mails to the governor's office. Dr. Jakubowski said this was a good idea and he would speak to the IT department if this could be done. Ms. Ciampi said that the basketball hoop at Connecticut Farms School was knocked down about three years ago by a plow and it has never been replaced. She wanted to know if this could be replaced at least by the spring. Mr. Perkins said that Mr. Gibbons, Ms. Ionta and he in their discussion did talk about the use of simulators and other devices for driver education. Dr. Jakubowski said that it is the responsibility of the school system to help individuals see the consequences of their behavior. He said that working together and coming up with a plan is certainly better than what the district has right now.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

There being no further business before the board, it was moved by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Manochio that the meeting be adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION WAS CARRIED

Respectfully submitted

JAMES J. DAMATO
BOARD SECRETARY