

NOTICE OF MEETING:

TO ALL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

A special meeting of the Board of Education of the Township of Union will be held on Saturday, February 24, 2007 at 8:00 a.m. at the James Caulfield Administration Building, 2369 Morris Avenue, Union, New Jersey 07083

A special meeting of the Board of Education of the Township of Union was held at the James Caulfield Administration Building, 2369 Morris Avenue, Union, New Jersey on Saturday, February 24, 2007 at 8:00 a.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, Mr. Francis Perkins, Mr. Steve Ruhl and Mrs. Judy Salazar

ABSENT AT ROLL CALL: Mrs. Versie McNeil

Mrs. Salazar led the board and audience members 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.

MRS McNEIL ENTERED THE MEETING AT 8:05 A.M.

EDUCATION/STUDENT DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE

Middle School Schedule

Dr. Jakubowski said that Mrs. Lombardi, Mr. Tatum and he had met with Mr. Salvatore and Mr. Bell regarding the middle school schedule. He said that for the past few years Mrs. Lombardi and he had been discussing the middle school cycle courses and state testing. Dr. Jakubowski stated that a number of years ago there were GEPA Prep cycles added in sixth and seventh grades in addition to other cycle classes such as graphic arts and mechanical drawing, etc. He said that this cycle class was twelve weeks of GEPA Prep Math and twelve weeks of GEPA Prep English. He said that it is now called Math Plus and English Plus. Dr. Jakubowski said that because testing is such an integral part of the State Report

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Card, the requirements, how the district is measured, whether right or wrong, the district is measured a great deal on its test scores. He said that after review of the cycle courses, there is some repetition in the sixth and seventh grade such as art and music. Dr. Jakubowski said that the district still offers three industrial arts programs: mechanical drawing, graphic arts and wood shop. He said that mechanical drawing is not a very popular class at this time. Dr. Jakubowski said that for the next school year it was his recommendation that the Math and English Plus be expanded in the seventh grade to half a year for Math Plus and half a year for English Plus. He said he believed this needed to be done. Dr. Jakubowski said that either art or music would be eliminated in the seventh grade, because those classes are offered in sixth grade and mechanical drawing will also be eliminated. He said that the sixth grade cycle classes are now being reviewed and he is thinking of eliminating either art or music, whichever one is not eliminated in seventh grade and adding a Health class in sixth grade since there is no health offered in sixth grade and a six week Life Skills course is offered instead of health. Dr. Jakubowski did not know how these changes would impact on staffing. He said that he thought these changes were a good thing as the district needed to focus on Math and English. Dr. Jakubowski said that most school districts do not offer the elective cycles that this district does in the sixth and seventh grade. He said that it is the middle schools that are the most challenged. Mr. Manochio thought that all districts face the greatest challenges at the middle school level. He said that he did not like the idea of removing the art and music cycles because he thought they were positive learning experiences. Mr. Manochio said that the educational profession has become geared to "pass the test" and not teaching children. Dr. Jakubowski said that music and art are not being eliminated. He said that when the middle school schedule was expanded to an eight period day it was because he wanted to get GEPA Prep courses into the cycle classes. Dr. Jakubowski said that when this was done more courses needed to be added so art and music were "doubled" up in both sixth and seventh grades and at that time, it served the purpose. He said that now if more Math and English classes something has to be removed. Dr. Jakubowski said that students will still have "pull-out" music, either vocal or instrumental, from gym and art will be offered in one of the grades. He said that art will also be offered as an eighth grade elective. Dr. Jakubowski said that he would not like to remove the Character Education program. He said that the district needed to make sure that its students were prepared to "take the test". Dr. Jakubowski said that this district is falling behind because it does not do the same kind of preparation as some of the other districts. He said that it is his recommendation to the board that Math and

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English cycle classes be expanded in the seventh grade and reduce art or music and mechanical drawing and put in a health course in the sixth grade which is part of the CORE curriculum standards. Mrs. Lombardi said that the focus of the Life Skills course has been changed from where it started to a Character Education component that both buildings took and developed a curriculum that they felt better suited the needs of buildings to encourage positive behavior and help develop positive character traits in students and the course has veered away from even being able to say it is a sixth grade health component and it would be very difficult to incorporate the course and have it support the standards for health. Mr. Manochio asked if mechanical drawing was dying out as a class. Dr. Jakubowski said that it certainly isn't what it was a one particular time and he said he would rather keep the graphics art and wood shop as cycle courses remain as offerings. Mrs. Gaglione commented that mechanical drawing was going more into a computer class. Mr. Helmstetter said that mechanical drawing is now CAD which is offered at Union High School. He questioned keeping keyboarding as one of the cycle classes. Mrs. Lombardi said that the keyboarding class is now word processing and it is offered in the sixth grade. Dr. Jakubowski said that the only cycle course that will be doubled up is Spanish because students now start to study Spanish in Grade 2 and it is part of the CORE Curriculum standards that cannot be justified eliminating. Mrs. Lombardi said that the district now has to access in some form computer literacy in all of the eight graders. Mr. Perkins asked if Educational Testing Services had not just done such a test and they were surprised that children were not as computer literate as they thought they were. Mrs. Lombardi said they did. Mr. Helmstetter asked if word processing was not just the same as keyboarding. Mrs. Lombardi said that it wasn't because when you look at some of the things that they want students to be able to do in the assessment component, it is not a written test, it will be done in the manner of a portfolio, many of the things covered in word processing beyond keyboarding are a part of that. Mr. Perkins stated that the word processing programs are constantly in evolution and what is learned at a particular point is not what you may use in a work situation after high school or college. Mr. Helmstetter asked the board if they agreed that the district needed to expand its Math and English courses. The board concurred. Dr. Jakubowski said that most districts have eliminated their elective areas at the middle school level and he would not like to do that. Mrs. Gaglione asked if there has ever been a measurement as to whether the GEPA Prep courses have increased overall scores in the district. Dr. Jakubowski said that this is difficult to do but he said that since the GEPA Prep courses have been instituted, scores have gone up. He said that math scores have been going up over the years. Dr. Jakubowski said that the district has a higher transient population and it is more

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difficult to measure the scores but it is his belief that if the GEPA prep was not offered, the scores would be significantly lower than they are. Mr. Manochio asked if the eight graders would still be offered elective courses. Dr. Jakubowski said the electives will definitely be offered in the eight grade. Mr. Helmstetter asked if the board agreed with Dr. Jakubowski's recommendations for changes in the sixth and seventh grade cycle courses. Dr. Jakubowski said that the mechanical drawing cycle will definitely be eliminated. The board concurred with Dr. Jakubowski's recommendations.

Middle School Testing

Dr. Jakubowski said that he has taken a hard look at the testing process for the sixth and seventh graders and with the number of teachers that are needed as proctors and looking at both middle school schedules, he was convinced that the best way for the district to handle testing was to have the eight graders report to school later on the testing days; similar to what is done at the high school. He said that he was working on a schedule and would distribute it to parents to inform them of the changes. Dr. Jakubowski said that if a parent insists that their child has to be in school on time, accommodations will be made in each building for the students to be kept in the auditorium or the gym so that the student can come to school at the regular time. He said that the busing schedule will be worked out for later pick up times. Dr. Jakubowski said that the district could not afford to have a breach like it had a number of years ago and the teachers who proctor these tests must be serious about the test. Mrs. Lombardi said that last year was the first year that the sixth and seventh graders took the test and it only last about one hour but this year the testing will be either two or three hours depending on which form the district receives.

Class Rank/GPA

Dr. Jakubowski said that he has done a lot of homework and although he could possibly make a recommendation with regard to this issue, he said that he has spoken to Mrs. Lombardi and Mr. Tatum and they are all in agreement that whatever is done, it would need the support and the input of the new building principal. He said that the class rank/GPA will stay the way it is until a new principal is named for the high school. Dr. Jakubowski thought that keeping the matter status quo would not hurt it one way or another. He said that this

Class Rank/GPA

system has worked for many years and he is not saying that eventually class rank is something that does not have to be in existence. Dr. Jakubowski said that he thought that the new building principal should have some input and have that person involved. He said that he would speak to the high school PTA president to advise what the situation is regarding this matter.

Dr. Jakubowski said that things were moving along pretty nicely at the Central Office. He said that he has been meeting with principals and talking about staffing, etc. for the next school year. He thought that the issues at the middle school were the most important and he felt that the middle school was the district's most critical area as there seems to be more of a transient population there. Dr. Jakubowski said that the last time a statistic with testing was done was when the Early Warning Test was being given several years ago and it was determined that those students who had been in the district from kindergarten through eighth grade had the best scores and more than fifty percent of those students who entered the district in the sixth, seventh and eighth grade were not passing the test. He said that there have been some adjustments because now a student must be in district for more than one year before that student's score counts.

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2007-2008 Budget Overview

Dr. Jakubowski said that he would be giving the board an overview of the budget as a firm budget is not yet complete because the governor just spoke last Thursday. He said that in terms of the tax levy, there will be an allowable increase in the budget of no more than four percent (4%) of the tax levy with a few exceptions if the district qualifies. Dr. Jakubowski said that the exceptions include health insurance; the state health benefit package is being increased approximately 6.9% and the theory is that if a district must deal with any increase in health care benefits over 6.9%, any increase costs over 4% the district would be eligible to add 2.9% into the tax levy. He said that there is also an exception for tuitions over \$40,000 and there are also exceptions for enrollment issues which might enable a district to increase the tax levy. Ms. Dunn said that the enrollment exception is statutory and the Department of Education will automatically calculate a district's projected enrollment and the state will take the district's last year's adjusted levy, which is the base tax levy not including debt service with any capital outlay SGLA from last year being

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deducted automatically. She said that based upon that amount, the state will take the increase in the number of students by grade level (weighted by grade level) and take the projected enrollment and divide that number into the district's tax levy and come up with a "amount per pupil" and based on the weighting, the district would get an adjustment in the allowable 4% increase. Ms. Dunn said that some districts will see an increase and some will not. She said that there have not been any adjustments for projected enrollment for the past few years. Dr. Jakubowski said that the district did not anticipate much as far as enrollment because it has not been up or down more than one percent for the past few years. Ms. Dunn said that increases would only be given on certain percentages of enrollment increases based on the weight. She said that the district's enrollment over the past few years has only been about one percent and there is a one percent cut-off for an adjustment. Ms. Dunn said that the cap on the budget is on the revenue or tax levy. She said that before the cap was on the maximum permitted net budget which would have included miscellaneous revenue, tax levy and state aid. Ms. Dunn said that the new formula is to take the tax levy, the adjusted enrollment (which is given to the district by the state) then any adjustments for health insurance, a capital adjustment, and special education adjustment, which is the difference budget to budget year over the \$40,000; these are the allowable increases in the tax levy and would bring the district to its allowable levy increase. She said that at that juncture, the district would add on state aid, miscellaneous revenue and whatever else is allowable and that would be the spending plan for the district. Ms. Dunn said that the governor has announced that every district would be getting a flat 3% increase in state aid over last year which is the first increase in five years which would amount to approximately \$666,000 to the district. She said that there are also districts throughout the state that are funding full-day kindergarten which will receive an increase in state aid which our district is also eligible for. Ms. Dunn said that there are some districts that will also be given funds for "at risk" students but that figure is not clear. She said that the County Business Administrator stated at yesterday's meeting that there was one district in Union County which the governor said would be seeing a 10% overall increase in state aid. Ms. Dunn said that the state aid figures probably would be given out at the earliest on Monday or the latest Thursday of next week. Ms. Dunn said that she was able to get a download of the budget last Thursday and this will be a transition year since there is no current real funding formula in place at this time. She said that A-1 which is the new law which will deal with this issue has not yet been signed by the governor because amendments are presently being proposed and this new law would cover schools years 2007-2008 through 2010-2011. Ms.

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Dunn said that some of the provisions of S1701 such as administrative costs limits; limitation on transfers, etc are still in place at this time. She said that the budget document itself has been substantially changed with added worksheets which will have to be done. Ms. Dunn said that there are some adjustments for the tax levy that will be implemented in 2008-2009 which will be for energy costs and some other things that are not being dealt with at this time. She said that even though the state has S1701 which right now means that the district cannot take extra money and just apply it to the budget with certain exceptions. Ms. Dunn stated that the district was able to take its HELP aid, because under the law right now, it is excluded from the budget, and defer some of the special education transportation costs. She said that if the district wanted to put money into a maintenance reserve account or a capital reserve account the district can only do that at budget time. Ms. Dunn said that the change in the law would enable the district to put unused appropriations or unbudgeted revenue by board resolution into reserve accounts; this will go into effect at the end of June, 2008. She said that this was a big change. Ms. Dunn said that the district will be able to create a new "emergency reserve" account which can be 1% of the budget up to \$1 million. She said that the budget document is presently being worked on and hopefully by the middle of next week there will be a budget document created. Mrs. Gaglione asked with the full-time kindergarten aid, the estimated \$666,000 additional aid and the other exceptions if Ms. Dunn thought the district would be able to come up to the deficit that was anticipated due to the switch in the amount to be capped. Ms. Dunn said that right now there is a \$4 million gap based on a 4% increase including the \$666,000 in additional state aid. She said that the district does receive DEPA and instructional supplemental aid, however, that amount was always included in the maximum permitted net budget but it was accounted for in Fund 20. Mr. Perkins asked Ms. Dunn to explain Fund 20. Ms. Dunn stated that Fund 20 is the district's special revenue fund and that is where the district has to account for any money that comes into the district from the state, federal government, local or private donations or other sources. She said that the district has started the budget process with \$8 million in the gap and have made it work because everyone puts in everything. Ms. Dunn said that she hoped the district would get a sizeable increase in state aid. She said that by not taking the full 4% and not taking the adjusted levies, would reduce the base for the next year. Ms. Dunn said before the district would use surplus to offset the levy now that is not the case. She said that if the district does not take the health adjustment, the base for next year will be lower. Ms. Dunn said that every adjustment that you take, except for capital, is credited as a base increase for the next year. She said that last year's general fund tax levy not including debt service was an 8% increase. Mr. Perkins said he understood Ms.

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Dunn to say that the district may not be able to do the 4% increase on the levy based upon adjustments for enrollment. Ms. Dunn said that what she said was the district will automatically get a 4% increase and the district does not have to use the 4% but if the district does not use it the base is reduced for the next year. Mr. Manochio asked if this district would get additional funds for early childhood program aid. Ms. Dunn said that there are districts who receive this aid but this district receives DEPA aid which is different. She said that early childhood program aid is for those districts that have an extreme number of poor, at risk, pre-school children. Mr. Manochio asked about aid for early childhood handicapped aid. Ms. Dunn said that at this juncture the state has not clarified and she would not see until she received the state update notices what will be available.

Dr. Jakubowski thought that the plan put forth from the state is quite good and he understood where the governor was coming from. He said that the fact that there is no cap on the overall budget will really allow for districts that can be innovative and increase their revenue. Dr. Jakubowski said that he and Mr. Damato have been meeting with the Morris Union Jointure Commission to re-negotiate their lease of the Hamilton School building and see if they will agree to another upfront lease payment. He said that going below the 4% would be foolish because the base does not increase. Dr. Jakubowski said that additional state aid is good provided that the district does not lose its HELP aid. He said that the district had to look at what the anticipated expenditures are for next year and go from there. Dr. Jakubowski thought that the district should apply for the "over \$40,000 tuition" and health care adjustments. He said that the district will try to stay as close to the 4% increase as possible. Dr. Jakubowski said that there was no way he wanted to see the district lose a budget election two years in a row. Mr. Perkins asked if anyone knew what the rate of inflation had been over the last year and a 4% increase in the base for the next year would in real terms be pretty close to zero inflation. Mr. Helmstetter said that the taxpayer only wants to know "How much more?" and that is what they care about. Ms. Dunn said that there is a mechanism in the new A-1 law that will make the tax assessors do the appropriate adjustments to the taxpayers. She said that the health care adjustment will only be available for three years and the reason being is that every collective bargaining agreement should be up within a three year time and that it is anticipated that significant negotiations will make the health costs go down. Dr. Jakubowski said that the state health benefit plan is locked in for the next three years and districts have left them because there is no "wiggle" room to negotiate. He said that state health benefits now realizes that they need to put some "wiggle" room in and the talk is that every new

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employee must take NJ Plus as this district has directed that every new employee must take Direct Access as their health plan. Dr. Jakubowski said that if the budget can be increased by as much as you want provided you have the revenue and the means to do it. He said that the district had to look at 4% as the absolute and then the district must come up with innovative ways to make sure that it has additional funds. Dr. Jakubowski asked Ms. Dunn if the district was still capped at a 2% surplus. Ms. Dunn said that the only change is surplus can be 2% or \$250,000 rather than 2% or \$100,000. Ms. Gaglione asked if the 2% would include an emergency fund. Ms. Dunn said it did not. Dr. Jakubowski said that this board has been very fiscally responsible. He said that as long as the district manages its money properly, this new plan can work well. Ms. Dunn said that this is a transition year and the new funding formula will be in affect for next year and she did not know what specific changes would be made.

Bond Update

Ms. Dunn said that the district finally has a new contact at the SCC and she has submitted several projects for reimbursement. Ms. Dunn said that the SCC is requiring more paperwork which is being worked on and the status has not changed. She said that there is a \$1.3 million receivable that we do not anticipate receiving the full amount because the district was fiscally prudent and completed projects under budget. Ms. Dunn said that the district has \$1.1 million cash available to spend. Mr. Helmstetter asked if all vendors have been paid. Ms. Dunn said that all checks that have been requested have been processed. Mr. Helmstetter asked if there was any outstanding money owed any vendor. Ms. Dunn said that she has sent in everything for final completion. Mr. Manochio asked what the district can do with the \$1.1 million. Dr. Jakubowski stated that the \$1.1 million along with what is expected to be received from the SCC is still the district's to use.

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Dr. Jakubowski said that the board would have to meet to adopt the budget for submission to the County Superintendent. Ms. Dunn said that the election calendar has changed and the budget is due to the County Superintendent on March 13th for review and approval. She said that the public hearings on the budget can take place from March 26th through March 29th, 2007 and the district needs the County Superintendent's approval before it can advertise the budget prior to the public hearing. Dr. Jakubowski suggested that the board move its scheduled worksession to Monday, March 12th so that the

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approval vote could be done and the budget could be sent to the County Superintendent on March 13th. It was the consensus of the board to do this. Ms. Dunn said that it was her goal to get a draft of the budget to the board members as soon as possible. Mr. Helmstetter asked if the public hearing could be scheduled on March 27th and March 29th. It was the consensus of the board to set up the public hearings for those dates.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

New Telephone System

Dr. Jakubowski said that three proposals have been received from vendors for a new telephone system. He said that they have not been totally reviewed but he had a conversation with Mr. Endrzejewski yesterday at which time he telephoned several school districts (Rahway and Livingston) that have changed to one of the systems and they are extremely happy with this system. Mr. Perkins asked if this project must be bid. Dr. Jakubowski said that it will depend because one vendor has a state contract for everything and others have state contracts for part of the system. Mr. Tatum said that the three vendors that he has met with each have projected that the district will have a monthly savings with their systems. He said the issue becomes what system the district chooses that is (1) the most user friendly and (2) the most compatible to the infrastructure which the district now has. Mr. Tatum said that he has seen all three systems and some of them are "hybrids" which means that equipment can be "mixed and matched" but then maintenance becomes an issue in terms of whether or not our IT department will maintain certain aspects of the system and/or whether a maintenance agreement will be required and whether there would be a "multi" maintenance agreement meaning that the district would have more than one vendor to come in for maintenance. Mr. Tatum said that with the briefings that he has had and the visitations that he has been on, he thought that the system which is the most compatible may be the most feasible system to go with but that has yet to be seen. Mr. Perkins asked who the vendors were. Mr. Tatum said the vendors were Avaya, Cisco and Taylor Solutions. Mr. Helmstetter asked which one had the state contract. Mr. Tatum stated that it was Avaya. Dr. Jakubowski said that a board committee may have to be established to have the vendors make presentations to will be a decision the board will have to make. He said that he has spent time the other day talking to Mr. Endrzejewski about the "override" and whether the district needs to go to Voice Over IP. Dr. Jakubowski said that he needed Mr. Endrzejewski to tell him why that was the way to go. He said that all of the vendor presentations were

New Telephone System

interesting. Mr. Helmstetter asked if it would be possible to get something by the March meeting. Dr. Jakubowski said that there is still the issue of money and Mr. Endrzejewski seemed to believe in looking at what the districts present monthly telephone expenses are, these expenses would equal out. Dr. Jakubowski said that he has not had an opportunity to speak to Ms. Dunn to know if this is accurate. Mr. Perkins asked if the district was still on a month-to-month lease with Verizon. Mr. Damato said that was so. Mr. Helmstetter said that he would like to see this matter resolved quickly because the board has been talking about it for a long time.

Renovation of Back of Hannah Caldwell School

Dr. Jakubowski said that there have been discussions about renovating the back of Hannah Caldwell and turning it into the Administrative Offices. He said that he met with the Potters during the week and Potter Architects have provided the district with a schematic of what could possibly be done in the space available. Dr. Jakubowski said that the Administration Building has really become inadequate, space wise. He said that the IT department must expand as they do not have adequate room at this time. Dr. Jakubowski said that Operations and Maintenance would remain in the building and be able to have more office space. He said that the Business Office, the Central Office, all of the Supervisors that right now are housed in the high school and other places along with special services (at least Ms. French and her two secretaries) would go to the space at Hannah Caldwell. Dr. Jakubowski said that he has already been approached by several people to rent space at the existing Administration Building. He said that the UTEA has expressed interest in moving its office here and he believed that the Chamber of Commerce would also be interested in renting space here. Mr. Perkins said that the rental space would have to be put out for bid and it is not as easy as you think. Mr. Damato put out the schematic for the board members to look at. Dr. Jakubowski thought that moving to the back of Hannah Caldwell would make a lot of sense. He thought that the supervisors would be better housed in the administration office so that they would be available for meetings, etc. Dr. Jakubowski said that Potter Architects has given an estimate of between \$2 and \$2.5 million for this renovation, but this would also include furniture. He said that any bond money which was originally earmarked for the Central Office could be used for this project. Dr. Jakubowski said that he would enjoy having his office in a school. Mr. Abraham asked assuming that everything were to fall into place, how quickly can a project

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like this be completed. Dr. Jakubowski said that the Potters have said that it could be ready for the end of next year. He said that most of it is inside work. Mr. Damato said that if the approvals are gotten over this summer it would be a good job to do over the winter as it is an inside job. He said that it would probably only be a three month as the infrastructure is already and the space can be serviced by the existing boiler from Hannah Caldwell. Mr. Helmstetter asked why the board could not commit to the job now. He asked when the district hoped to hear from the SCC about how much money it would be getting from the state. Ms. Dunn said that she has been going back and forth on paper work at this time. Mr. Helmstetter asked if any board member was opposed to this project. Ms. Dunn said that the original referendum called for upgrades to the Administration Building and she said that the bond committee did have other projects that they were looking to use the excess money for. Dr. Jakubowski said that doing the renovation to Hannah Caldwell would put a hold on the high school auditorium and some of the other projects that the board was looking at. Mr. Helmstetter thought that moving the administrative offices was the most worthwhile project and it should have been done years ago. Mrs. Gaglione asked if the project could be done even though the district does not have the money in hand. Mr. Helmstetter said that the district would have to wait to see how much money it gets from the SCC. Ms. Dunn said that if the Potters are estimating \$2.4 million and \$1.1 million is available in cash and a \$1.3 million receivable is expected, if the \$1.3 million is not received the funding would be short. Mr. Damato said that the district would have to wait to see what the SCC gives the district before it can go out to bid. Ms. Dunn said that the district would be extremely pressed to stay within those dollars because there are no other funds that can be used for this project. Mr. Helmstetter said that the longer the board waits, the costs are going to go up. Mr. Perkins said that the board will have to be prepared to explain to its constituents why this project is necessary. Mr. Damato said that the IT Department really needs to be expanded. Mr. Helmstetter asked what the downside would be to start getting things formalized now. Dr. Jakubowski said that Potter Architects has done the schematic gratis and once formal plans are prepared there will be architectural fees involved. Ms. Dunn said that any fees associated with this project must come out of the money which is available for the project and did the estimate given by the Potters include the fees. She said that if the board wants to go forward on this project she would have to investigate what the "true" costs are or if there was another avenue that the board could use to get the project moving. Dr. Jakubowski said that Morris Union Jointure Commission really wants to extend its lease at Hamilton School. Mr. Damato stated that there are only

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Two years left on the existing lease and this is the time that the district should approach Morris Union Jointure and say that the district is looking to plan for its future too; what can we do? Dr. Jakubowski said that the district may be able to "sweeten the pot". He said that Morris Union Jointure has just built a new facility in Warren which is estimated to be filled within a year and a half. Dr. Jakubowski said that the new facility is like a little city. He said that people will criticize the facility because it is huge. Dr. Jakubowski said that Morris Union Jointure does not want to lose the use of Hamilton School. He said that it may very well be that because their funds are more accessible, the lease negotiation terms may pay for the renovation of the back of Hannah Caldwell. Dr. Jakubowski said that he and Mr. Damato are initiating a letter to the Morris Union Jointure that the district needs to address whether the district wants to extend the lease of Hamilton School, because the district may have other uses for Hamilton School. Mr. Perkins asked who controlled the spending of the Morris Union Jointure Commission. Dr. Jakubowski said that the Superintendents that make up the board of the Morris Union Jointure Commission do. Mr. Perkins asked who the Morris Union Jointure was responsible to. Dr. Jakubowski said to be honest, nobody. He said that the Commissioner oversees it. Dr. Jakubowski said that since he is a member of the Board of the Morris Union Jointure Commission, the district gets a rebate on any tuition which it pays to the Commission. Mr. Damato said that becoming a member of the Jointure was part of the original deal when the district leased Hamilton School to the Jointure for their use. Dr. Jakubowski encouraged the board members to walk through Hamilton School to see what the Jointure has done. He said that there are approximately 100 students going to Hamilton School. Mr. Manchu asked how many youngsters will be housed at the Jointure's new facility in Warren. Dr. Jakubowski said he thought it would be able to service approximately 180 students. Mrs. Gaglione said that she thought the supervisors should be in the administrative office but she wanted to make sure that the administrative staff did not lose communications with the schools. Dr. Jakubowski said that the supervisors will still be required to evaluate teachers. He said that many years ago what is now Mrs. Lombardi's office was the supervisors' office, originally. Mrs. Lombardi stated that there are now fifteen supervisors in the district, including special services. Mr. Helmstetter asked Dr. Jakubowski how long it would take to get the lease negotiations "rolling" with the Jointure. Dr. Jakubowski said that a letter must first be sent and then a meeting can be set up. Mr. Helmstetter said that he would like to have some idea by the March meeting of where the district is going. Mrs. Lombardi said that maybe the board

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could get some more definite costs from Potter on this project. Dr. Jakubowski said that the board has not committed to go ahead on the project and once the board does commit with Potter and they come with breakdowns, then the board will have to pay for whatever Potter Architects must do to prepare for this. Dr. Jakubowski asked Mr. Damato if because the district hired a different architectural firm for bond money that would be an issue. Mr. Damato said it was not.

Central-Five/Jefferson School

Dr. Jakubowski said that Potter Architects has also drawn a design for renovation at Central-5/Jefferson School. He said that on the initial bond projects this was one school building that the district really didn't do much for a variety of reasons. Dr. Jakubowski said that there are two students in the building who are in wheelchairs and are on "trackers"; trackers help the students get up the stairs. He said that there are more and more students at the elementary level that are handicapped and need accessibility. Dr. Jakubowski said that he thought Central-5 needed a makeover. He said that at this time it needs new roof and in order to prepare for the repair, it will be cost well over \$1million just for the roof repair. Mr. Damato showed the plans for Central-5 to the board members. Dr. Jakubowski said that Potter Architects has come up with a design that is much different design by just adding on to one side of the building. Mr. Damato said that the original portion of the school building would be demolished as part of the plan and the new building would be turned and run along the back property line, which would open up the whole front of the building to put parking in the front. Dr. Jakubowski said that there would still be a grassy, play area next to the school. Mr. Damato said that this plan would afford much better circulation for buses; there would no longer be bus drop off on the street. He said that it was a very simple design but makes most efficient use of the space. Mr. Helmstetter asked if the square footage would be increased. Dr. Jakubowski said it would. He went over the plan with the board members. Dr. Jakubowski said that the newer portion of the building would remain with a new structure added. He said that this would allow for handicapped accessibility. Mr. Damato said that right now, the floors of the building are not aligned and to make it handicapped accessible, two elevators would be necessary. Dr. Jakubowski said that there would be an increase to 27 classrooms. He said that he has thought about going back to seven elementary schools and he has reached out to members of the Vauxhall community and the truth of it is, most people like the concept of Central-5. Mrs. Gaglione said that Central-5 allows children from all over town to mingle and they would not be

Central-Five/Jefferson School

able to do this until they were in middle school or high school. Mr. Helmstetter asked what would be done while construction is ongoing. Dr. Jakubowski said that during the construction, classes could still take place in the portion of the building that will not be demolished and for one year, there is room in some of the other elementary schools that could accommodate a fifth grade. He said that trailers could also be utilized to house students during construction. Dr. Jakubowski said that the older portion of Central-5 needs a lot of work to be done to it because it has a wood frame. He said that right now the building is safe but in three or four years a situation may arise where the district would have to do major repairs on the building. Dr. Jakubowski said that next year there will be four students in the building that will be in wheelchairs. He said that the district is bringing students back to our schools because they should be in district. Dr. Jakubowski said that this district is unique with its fifth grade concept and he would hate to see it end because the district cannot facilitate for handicapped students in the building the way it is set up right now. He said that he did not know if the district could continue to stay with the Central-5 concept as is without making some major renovations at Jefferson School and if the district will be spending \$7 million to make it handicapped accessible, he said it makes sense to do a major renovation which would cost \$14 million to \$15 million. Mr. Damato thought that this project would probably cost between \$15 and \$20 million. Dr. Jakubowski said that this was something the board needed to consider for the future. Mr. Perkins said that if this renovation did take place, it does not mean that the district must stay with the Central-5 concept forever. Dr. Jakubowski said that it would be usable as a school building. He said that this project would be a good investment of money for the community because right now every child in the district gets the advantages of that school. Dr. Jakubowski said that the new plan offers the addition of an auditorium which would do away with the problem of taking students from Central-5 to the High School to use that auditorium for a holiday or spring shows and the students would have a further ownership of the building. He said down the road handicapped accessibility will be an issue as more and more handicapped children are in district. Mr. Damato said that the older portion of the building that is proposed to be demolished is over 100 years old and the construction technology 110 years ago cannot be fixed. Mr. Perkins stated that Hamilton School is also over 100 years old. Dr. Jakubowski said that over the years work has been done at Hamilton School. He said that creating Hannah Caldwell School was the best thing that the district ever did. Dr. Jakubowski said that he still regrets not purchasing the building on Lousons Road to become the new Administration Building. Mr. Perkins asked if it was too late to purchase the building on Lousons Road. Mr. Damato said it was too late because the person

Central-Five/Jefferson School

who purchased the building has gotten plans approved to have a complete, new building designed to be used as a medical testing lab. He said that the new owner has a lot of money invested in the property right now and it would cost much more to purchase the building now. Mr. Helmstetter asked the board if they were in agreement to go ahead on this project as soon as money was available. All board members were in agreement. Mr. Helmstetter stated that something the board learned today was that they needed to go forward on projects rather than waiting too long.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

High School Principal

Dr. Jakubowski stated that he was going to post for the High School Principal position within the next week and he would advertise in newspapers and on-line. He said that the new principal will not be appointed until after the reorganization of the Board in April. Dr. Jakubowski said that the position would be posted both within the district and outside.

Reorganization of Administrative Staff

Dr. Jakubowski said that there were some things that he has been thinking about doing. He said that he had to be careful because the district had to stay within an administrative cost. Dr. Jakubowski said that the feedback he has been getting from individuals is that the new program at Union High School with the Deans of Students, etc. is working very nicely. He said that people are comfortable with it and if the board hires a principal who wants to keep the program then job descriptions will have to be developed. Dr. Jakubowski said that it was his opinion, based on the research that he had done, that a Dean of Students could still be part of the Teachers' Association and a stipend could be developed which was appropriate. He said that with the retirement of Kathy Jeranek, there is one less elementary specialist and with the retirement of Gale Fortunato, he believed that the district needed a supervisor of English at the middle school level and at the high school level. Dr. Jakubowski said that for right now he has incorporated Elaine Lombardino as supervisor for Math and English at the middle school level and she has reduced some of her duties as a math specialist at the elementary level. He thought that the district's Math scores were going in the right direction but the Language Arts scores are going in a different direction. Dr. Jakubowski said that this was not the reflection of a supervisor but at least a supervisor can concentrate on particular areas of need.

Reorganization of Administrative Staff

He said that these are some changes that he would like to make. Dr. Jakubowski said that depending on what happens at the high school, he said he was anticipating a few more retirements at the end of the year from administrators based upon conversations he has had. Mr. Manochio asked who would be writing the job description for the Dean of Students. Dr. Jakubowski said that he would be doing that. Mr. Manochio asked if the job description of the Vice Principal would change based on the that of the Dean of Students. He felt that the Vice Principals would be called upon to do more evaluating and observing of instructional staff. Dr. Jakubowski said that he would work on that also. He said that the Vice Principals are already observing teachers but they are still involved with discipline of students. Dr. Jakubowski said that when a Dean meets with a student, they look for input from the Vice Principal. Mr. Manochio asked if a Dean of Students suspend or does it have to be done by an administrator. Dr. Jakubowski said that the Dean of Students is making the decision to suspend a student; if Mr. Manochio was asking who signs the suspension letter, he did not know, but the student would be reinstated by the Dean of Students. Mr. Manochio said that if the Dean of Students is affiliated with teachers' association and they do suspensions that would mean that a classroom teacher could suspend a student. Dr. Jakubowski said that it did not. Mr. Manochio said that the Dean of Students was not an administrator. Dr. Jakubowski said that Lois Hochuli was not an administrator; she is in charge of attendance and she suspends students. He said that she makes the decision to suspend. Mr. Manochio said she does this without the input of an administrator. Dr. Jakubowski said that it is based on what the high school uses as its criteria. Mr. Manochio asked if a parent has ever questioned such a suspension by a teacher. Dr. Jakubowski said she suspends students as a part of her role as attendance officer. Mr. Manochio said he always thought that only an administrator was the only official person who could suspend a student. Dr. Jakubowski said that he believed an administrator was the only one who could evaluate someone and he did not know if it was specific in the code that could and could not suspend a student. He said that in reality only one person is in charge of a building and that is the building principal and everyone else has tasks designated, in theory, by the building principal. Dr. Jakubowski said that in the job description of a teacher, for example, is involved with presenting the curriculum and what the duties are. He said that they certainly can discipline a student and they can give a child detention. Dr. Jakubowski said that if the job description of the Dean of Students says that in their role, they can suspend a students based upon infractions in the school. He said that the final responsibility for anything that happens in the district is his. Dr. Jakubowski said

Reorganization of Administrative Staff

that people appeal suspension to Mr. Tatum and if they don't like what Mr. Tatum says than they come to him and if they don't like what I say, they go to the board. Mr. Manochio asked if there is anyone other than the principal that can suspend students at the elementary level. Dr. Jakubowski said that there is no other administrator at the elementary school. He said that he would find out who signs suspension letters at the high school but he knew that the Deans of Students did reinstate students. Dr. Jakubowski said that since a job description has not yet been developed for the Deans of Students, Mr. Shanahan has asked him about it and he has told Mr. Shanahan that he would like to wait until a new principal is named to absolutely create a position. He said that for right now, those teachers who are Deans of Students, have been assigned this duty. Mr. Tatum said that he had held a position similar to the Dean of Students when he worked in Hillside and one of the job description criteria was "recommend suspension to the principal" and what that meant was that he would do all of the fact finding and then say, "this student has violated x, y and z regulations and I am recommending this child be suspended from school." He said what would happen is the principal would then sanction the suspension and it would be carried out by that person. Dr. Jakubowski asked Mr. Tatum if the suspension letter had his name on it. Mr. Tatum said that since he was not a regular administrator at the time, the principal would sign the letter. Dr. Jakubowski said that there have been less challenges on suspensions since the new plan has been put in place. Mr. Tatum said that two appeals have come to him since the new year began and he said one was from the middle school and one was from the high school. He said that both appeals were denied at his level only because in looking at what the regulations say, they were bone fide suspensions and there was no room to overturn a suspension. Mr. Tatum said that when he met with the Vice Principals, he discussed this issue of the Deans of Students was working out in terms of there actually being another step now prior to the appeal coming to Central Office. Mrs. Gaglione asked who was responsible for writing job descriptions. Dr. Jakubowski said that the Central Office writes the job descriptions and then get them approved by the Board. He said that he has books that contain recommended job descriptions. Mrs. Gaglione said that at some point Dr. Jakubowski and Mrs. Lombardi will not be here, and she said that they are familiar with what individuals jobs are currently; she asked when the job descriptions were last updated. Dr. Jakubowski said that all job descriptions were updated two years ago when the district went through monitoring. Mrs. Gaglione said that she wanted to make sure that the district kept updating so that the board knows that whatever changes have been made are updated in the job description. Dr. Jakubowski said that he did not think there was a form to

Reorganization of Administrative Staff

use for the Dean of Students job description. Mrs. Gaglione said that he could probably call another district that has Deans of Students for their form. Dr. Jakubowski said that is one of the reasons why he was leaning toward keeping them in the Teachers' Unit because most other districts have done it that way.

Mr. Abraham said that with regard to the appointment of a new principal at Union High School, he knew that the position had to be posted but for the board's own personal information and the feedback that Dr. Jakubowski has gotten on the performance of Mr. Gibbons, did Dr. Jakubowski anticipate that the board would have to go outside to hire a new principal. Dr. Jakubowski said that he anticipated that the district needed to post and see what applications come in. He said that the feedback which he is getting on what is going on at the high school right now is 95% positive. Dr. Jakubowski said that there are people who came to him with concerns over the appointment of Mr. Gibbons and those people have come to him, in general, to say that they were wrong and that things at the high school are really going nicely. Mr. Abraham asked if the school "had missed a beat" since Mr. Fortunato left. Dr. Jakubowski said that he did not believe the school "had missed a beat", he said the personality of the school has changed a little, but that is inevitable. He said that there are some things that Mr. Gibbons has done while he has been there, for example, security people are not going on field trips anymore; there was a dance at night that in the past all seven security people attended and Mr. Gibbons only assigned three individuals for security but he was present and so were his two Vice Principals. Dr. Jakubowski said he would never sit here and say that the principal job belonged to Mr. Gibbons. He said that he wants to see who applies. Mrs. McNeil asked since the Dean of Students will be a part of the Teachers Unit, does that mean to apply for this position an individual would need an administrator's certificate. Dr. Jakubowski said that in the district's job description anything that you want as a qualification can be put in to apply for the position. He said that the Dean of Student job description will definitely say that an administrative certificate is required. Dr. Jakubowski said that a teacher can apply to be a guidance counselor but if you don't have a guidance certificate you cannot be a guidance counselor. He said that the district's social workers, LDTCs are teachers with another certification. Dr. Jakubowski said that he did not know how much longer the district can continue to have people be Learning Consultants, School Psychologists, Social Workers without giving them some kind of a stipend. Mr. Manochio asked if each Dean was assigned by grade level. Dr. Jakubowski said they were and two of the Deans report to Mr. Stegemann and two of the Deans report to Mr. Benequista. He said that the personality of even that Vice Principals and their cooperativeness, from what he understands, has

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really changed in a positive manner. Mrs. Gaglione asked if the Deans are currently just getting their "teacher" salary. Dr. Jakubowski said they are getting their salary but what was kept for them was their sixth period stipend because since this was the salary each was making; he was giving them a new assignment and he was not going to lower their salary for the remainder of the school year. Mrs. Gaglione asked if after the job description is developed and individuals apply for the Dean of Students position, would the salary for the position be their regular teacher's salary plus a stipend. Dr. Jakubowski said that he would make a recommendation for a stipend amount and he would discuss it with the Teachers' Association. He said that if Deans of Students were monitoring the halls in the morning and afternoon, they should not be getting a stipend for a.m./p.m. monitoring, it should be a part of their job description. Dr. Jakubowski thought that the Deans of Students should be allowed to be coaches. He said that he will ask the new principal at the high school to help him with the job description for the Dean of Students because it will be the principal who will have to live with it everyday.

Mrs. Salazar said that she visited Livingston School about a week ago; she said that Dr. Lentine gave her a tour of the school and she stated that there is a collaboration between Dr. Lentine and Mrs. Moses at Connecticut Farms. She said that Dr. Lentine said that he only has an interventionist in his building two or three times a week because that person travels between two schools and he felt that he needed more intervention time. Mrs. Salazar said that she observed the classrooms and noticed that the teacher's computers are very old and some are not functioning. Dr. Jakubowski said that a number of years ago when the budget was defeated, the district eliminated all intervention. He said that he convinced Dr. Caulfield at that point to at least retain the interventionist at Central-Five and Mr. Meyer was put in that position but all other interventionist positions were eliminated. Dr. Jakubowski said that slowly the district was able to reinstate the interventionist positions due to the DEPA aid that the district receives. He said that all elementary schools could use a full-time interventionist.

MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Moved by Mr. Abraham, seconded by that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss personnel, contract negotiations and litigation matters 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

MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

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. Abraham, Mrs. Axelrod, Mrs. Gaglione, Mr. Manochio,
Mrs. McNeil, Mr. Perkins, Mr. Ruhl, Mrs. Salazar, Mr.
Helmstetter
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: None MOTION WAS CARRIED

MOTION TO RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

Moved by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Ruhl that the board return to public session.

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

PUBLIC SESSION RESUMED AT 11:15 A.M.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

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

O-1. APPROVE NETWORK SERVICES AGREEMENT – COMCAST BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS, LLC

That the board approve Network Services Agreement with Comcast Business Communications, LLC, 1500 Market Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for the period July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008 in accordance with the information appended to these minutes. This agreement is subject to final modification of contract language as approved by the board attorney.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Abraham said that he had spoken to Mr. Damato before the meeting started and he explained that the district is renewing its contract with Comcast for a one-year period for internet service. Mr. Abraham said that the district has been informed that there are new technologies on the horizon that it may possibly be able to utilize once this year long contract has expired.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION WAS CARRIED

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

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

P-1. ACCEPT PROPOSAL TO CONDUCT FACT-GATHERING INVESTIGATION – VERITA, LLC

That the board accept proposal of Marie A. Latoff, Esq. of Verita, LLC, 7 Great Valley Parkway, Malvern, Pennsylvania to conduct a fact-gathering investigation at a rate of \$150 per hour in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

DISCUSSION:

None

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION WAS CARRIED

POLICY COMMITTEE

Mr. Perkins stated that the critical policy manual mandatory procedures for complaints under the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act must be adopted. He said that he would have a policy prepared and put on the worksession agenda in March.

POLICY COMMITTEE

Mr. Perkins said that with regard to the student parking/driver education issue, he has gotten some feedback about the inspection of vehicles and it turns out that the Hunterdon Central Regional School District has "plowed" the ground for us in that they were doing drug testing of anyone with a parking permit and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) challenged them, not under the 4th Amendment – Search and Seizure Provisions of the US Constitution, as the ACLU agreed that it did not violate the 4th Amendment but under similar provisions of the State Constitution. He said that the Supreme Court upheld Hunterdon Central Regional's policy of requiring drug testing to include urine analysis and searches by K-9's as a precondition of getting a parking permit. Mr. Perkins said that Hunterdon Central Regional School District now requires that parking spaces be designated, that there is a \$60 non-refundable parking permit fee for each student and some other provisions. He said that he would e-mail each board member with all of the information. Mr. Perkins said that Hackettstown has an even better policy that requires that as a precondition to parking that the student must voluntarily enter the drug testing pool so that they are subjected to drug testing. He said that this district's concern is not so much drug testing so much as it is driver safety and enforcement of the driving regulations. Mr. Perkins said that there must be a hearing on this policy before it can be adopted by the board. He said that the policy will be put on the March regular agenda for comments from the public and then it can be put on the April agenda for adoption. Mr. Helmstetter asked if the proposed parking regulations would be sent to the board. Mr. Perkins said that he would prepare a document and send it to the board for review. Mr. Manochio asked if there would be a discussion about the implementation before the board votes on it. Mr. Perkins said that the court specifically had to identify that there was a drug related problem in the Hunterdon County School District. He said that he was talking about testing for drugs so much as he is of a precondition with notice. Mr. Perkins said that he and Mr. Damato would have to work out what it is, under the district's agreement with law enforcement, report to the police. He thought that if you say to a student that as a precondition to parking on school property the student must have a permit and it will cost a certain amount for that permit. Mr. Perkins said that if the district is required under the agreement to report illegal activity, what does that do under unreasonable search and seizure. He said he did not think that if there was notice and consent, i.e. in the application process it is specified that the student must sign an agreement and by the way, the district is required under its agreement with law enforcement to report it and then the student brings the vehicle, they will have already consented in advance. Mr. Helmstetter asked if Mr. Perkins intended that someone would actually go in and search vehicles. Mr. Perkins said that the district would have the ability to search a vehicle. He said that the implementation of the policy would be up to the

POLICY COMMITTEE

administration. Mr. Perkins said that the occupancy of a vehicle, even when it is parked by people who are not permitted in the vehicle under the provisional driver's license regulations would be a violation. He said that in Hackettstown once the car is parked, the student would not have access to the vehicle until the end of the day and if a student goes to his vehicle, it is a violation subject to suspension of parking privileges. Mr. Manochio thought that there should be lots of discussion regarding the provisions of this policy before it is adopted. Mrs. Gaglione asked if the policy will be presented in March. Mr. Perkins said that there would be a proposed policy but there would be a public hearing at the March regular meeting. Mrs. Gaglione said that Mr. Perkins was under the impression that all board members were in agreement with the provisions of this policy. Mr. Perkins said that he would e-mail information to the board members and they would have the opportunity to respond to the e-mail and/or to talk about it at the worksession in March. He said that he hoped by the time the March regular meeting came around, that the board agrees and this document would still be subject to change even after that depending on the input of the public at the March regular meeting. Mr. Damato asked what the district had to rely upon in terms of a study about drug abuse at Union High School. Mr. Perkins said that he did not have anything. Mr. Damato asked if the board should start with that. Mr. Perkins said he was reluctant to do that because the process is long; it is not aimed at drug abuse but aimed at vehicular safety. He said that if people come back and say "let's hold off on the right to inspect a vehicle", he would say okay but give me a good reason why we shouldn't do it. Mr. Perkins stated that given the district has consent and after the public hearing, he would back off on that issue and say that the district not make that one of the conditions of the agreement but in order to park on school premises, students must agree to follow the provisional driver license regulations. Dr. Jakubowski asked who would be asked to agree, the student or the parent. Mr. Perkins said that the student, the parent/guardian and the registered owner of the vehicle. Mr. Helmstetter said that, bottom line, if a student is not following the rules of the provisional driver's license, the district can say, "Sorry, you can't park here anymore." Mr. Perkins said that this was his concern. He said that he would be very comfortable in making the argument before a court that says the presence in a vehicle of alcohol, drugs or weapons affects the use of the vehicle, driver safety and safety on the premises. Mr. Perkins said that Hunterdon Central prohibits driving on the school premises between the hours of midnight and whatever time school begins in the morning and if a student drives across the parking lot during that time and are caught the student's parking privileges are suspended. He said that with regard to the incident which happened in Union, the young man who was driving the vehicle involved in the accident was

POLICY COMMITTEE

seen on two occasions in the high school parking lot that same evening and was seen by security guards from the high school. Mr. Perkins said that he would propose that the district prohibit this behavior as well. Mr. Helmstetter asked if any other board members had comments or questions for Mr. Perkins. Mr. Perkins stated that he wanted as much input into this policy as possible. He expected to invite the Director of Driver's Safety Education from AAA New Jersey who is a retired Elizabeth Police Officer and perhaps, Pam Fisher, who is the outgoing Director, who is becoming the Director of Vehicular Safety for the Department of Transportation and a few other people to come in to say, this is a good idea and this is what ought to be done.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

There being no further business before the board, it was moved by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Perkins that the meeting be adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION WAS CARRIED

Respectfully submitted

JAMES J. DAMATO
BOARD SECRETARY