

**UNION TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
WORKSESSION MINUTES  
JANUARY 13, 2009**

Meeting was held at James M. Caulfield Administration Building, 2369 Morris Avenue, Union, New Jersey 07083

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

ABSENT AT ROLL CALL: Mr. Steve Ruhl

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Dr. Theodore A. Jakubowski, Mr. Gregory Tatum, Mr. James J. Damato, and Mr. Anthony Magliacano

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Gaglione at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Abraham led the board members and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Mr. Damato stated that the communications had been referred to the appropriate committees.

Dr. Jakubowski said that if it was not out of order, he would like to discuss whether the regular meeting scheduled for next week should be cancelled. He said that this decision had to be made before the board started to go through the agenda and vote on resolutions. Mrs. Gaglione asked the board, by raising their hands, who would not be able to attend the regular meeting next Tuesday. She said that it had been brought to her attention that some people felt that because of the presidential inauguration some board member would not be able to attend the regular meeting. Mrs. Gaglione said that she did not see a problem with having a meeting. Mr. Perkins said that he intended to be present if there was a meeting. He said he did not have strong feelings one way or the other. Mr. Perkins said that the board certainly could not be criticized for not having a meeting. Mr. Manochio asked Dr. Jakubowski if he had reviewed the district's professional development plan and if he had any problems with it. Dr.

Jakubowski said that he had reviewed the plan and the plan had to be sent to the County Office for review and approval. He said that Mr. Tatum had a lengthy conversation with Mrs. Lischak, who also reviewed the plan, and the education committee. Mrs. Gaglione said that the board could just approve resolution E-4 tonight so that the document could be sent to the County. Mr. Manochio said that he did not have any objection to having a meeting next week. Mrs. Salazar said that majority should rule and whatever the board decides is alright with her. Mr. Abraham said that the actual inauguration will take place early in the afternoon and by 7:00 p.m. this historic event will have already taken place and he did not have a problem with having a meeting in the evening. Mr. Figueiredo said it was an important day but he had no problem with having a meeting in the evening. Mr. Helmstetter also did not have a problem with having a meeting next Tuesday. Mrs. Gaglione asked Dr. Jakubowski which resolutions needed to be voted on tonight. Dr. Jakubowski said that resolution E-4 could be voted on tonight as well as the resolutions which deal with field trips and professional days should be voted on because some of these activities begin prior to next week's board meeting. Mr. Perkins stated in light of the discussion, was there any need to have resolution F-11 on the agenda. Dr. Jakubowski said that F-11 would only be necessary if all the resolutions were voted on this evening. He said that there was nothing in personnel that absolutely had to be voted on tonight.

#### EDUCATION/STUDENT DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE

Mr. Figueiredo stated that the Education Committee met earlier in the evening and he presented the agenda.

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

#### E-4. APPROVE DISTRICT'S PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR 2009-2010 FOR SUBMISSION TO COUNTY

That the Board approve the district's Professional Development Plan for 2009-2010 to be submitted to the Union County Superintendent of Schools.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION WAS CARRIED

## EDUCATION/STUDENT DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE DISCUSSION ITEMS:

February Planning Session – Dr. Jakubowski said that it is his recommendation that the planning session be held on February 28<sup>th</sup>. He said by that time Ms. Dunn will be able to prepare a budget document and the board can have a discussion on next year's budget. Dr. Jakubowski said that the district has to have its budget to the County Office in the beginning of March and the budget would be able to be approved to be sent to the County for review on that same day. Mr. Perkins said that he was asked to speak to the New Jersey School Boards Association about their paperless agenda program. He said that they have an on-line presentation prepared and when he spoke to them today, he was asked to give three dates, Monday through Friday, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mr. Perkins said that when he told them those parameters might be a problem, he was told that an evening demonstration could possibly be arranged if it worked better for the board. He said that each individual could log into the demonstration from their own computers and the board has the option to be together or not for this demonstration. Mr. Perkins said that the demonstration takes about 40 minutes and this could be done at the planning session or on another date if necessary. Mr. Figueiredo did not have a problem having this demonstration at a worksession if there is an extensive agenda planned for the planning session. Mrs. Gaglione said that sometimes the board gets involved during the Saturday planning sessions and usually the board goes over time. Dr. Jakubowski thought that it probably would be better if this demonstration could be done at another time, even if it means holding off discussions on next year's calendars until the planning session. He said that originally he was going to have the Forman Group at the planning session to speak about the Central-Five renovation but because of the fact that it appears that this project will be pushed back for at least one year, this will not be necessary. Dr. Jakubowski said that there is also additional paperwork necessary to be submitted for the pre-k expansion project.

Sundown – Dr. Jakubowski said that the "Sundown" program has been renamed to "Extended School Day". He said that positions for the program have been posted and he has people for every position except Science at this time. Dr. Jakubowski said that he needed to speak to the UTEA about what the pay rate would be for teaching this program. He said that he would be meeting with representatives of the UTEA to inform them that he would like to reinstitute this program. Dr. Jakubowski said that the pay rate for "sundown" was taken out of the contract but it coincided with the rate that is paid for all other afterschool activities and he hoped that the association would not have a problem with this rate of pay. He said that

Sundown

this is a negotiated item. Dr. Jakubowski said that Mr. Gibbons is now posting for administrators to see who might be interested. He felt that there needed to be more than one administrator selected so that there can be a backup. Dr. Jakubowski said that each grade level will select four students to go into this program and there would be no more than 16 students to start the program. He said that most of the candidates for this program were those students who were chronically late to school or students who chronically cut classes. Dr. Jakubowski said that the program would run from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. and he hoped that this program would start in the second semester. Dr. Jakubowski said that he hoped that students would not remain in this program for a long period of time but he hoped that once the students were in the program for a period of time they would hate it and want to get back into the day school. He said that under no circumstances would there be any "fifth year" seniors in the program and if necessary, the program would run only every second semester. Dr. Jakubowski said that he would like to give this program a try to see if it discourages any student behaviors. He said that Mr. Shaw had suggested that Monday through Thursday would be regular days and Friday would be a shortened day devoted to testing preparation. Dr. Jakubowski said that he needed to find out what the requirements were; he said that he knew that four, forty minute periods of physical education per week were required. He said that he did not want to short change the students who were in the program. Dr. Jakubowski said that this program was eliminated when the budget was "tight" but he said that he would speak to Ms. Dunn about where the funds for this program can come. He said that during the time that students are in the program they are excluded from sports or any extracurricular activities. Mrs. Gaglione asked if a resolution needed to be passed in order to have this program reinstated. Dr. Jakubowski said that because any staff that works in this program will not get paid until March and even though the program has already started, the individuals can be approved at the February meeting. He did not think that Mr. Gibbons would have all of the recommended staff members until February. Mrs. McNeil asked what the criteria would be for a student to be put into this program. Dr. Jakubowski said that he could not give an "exact" criteria but he thought that it would be students who chronically abuse rules and regulations and they may not necessarily be students who are the most disruptive or worse in behavior. He said that these would be students who have been given Saturday Detention and have been suspended but they still cut classes and continually come late to school. Dr. Jakubowski said that he thought maybe putting these types of students in a program like this would may be more apt to deter their behavior because they would be cut off from socializing with their friends. Mrs. McNeil asked if there would still be Saturday Detention. Dr. Jakubowski said that Saturday Detention would not go away. He said that Mr. Gibbons had thought that it would

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be possible to isolate these students during the regular school day but it would be very difficult to keep track of the students. Mrs. McNeil asked if there has been any intervention on behalf of these students to try to get them to follow the rules. Dr. Jakubowski said that there have been parent conferences and he felt the level of frustration was that the administrators are dealing with students who do not seem to care and a suspension is not a big deal. Mrs. McNeil asked how many students were involved. Dr. Jakubowski said there were only a hand full of students. He did not feel there was more than ten percent of the student population that regularly get into trouble at the high school. Dr. Jakubowski said that each of the Assistant Principals believe that they have four or five students in each grade level who might be eligible for this program and it was agreed that there would be no more than sixteen students in the program to start out. He said that it is Mr. Gibbons hope that the students will dislike the program so much that at the end of a six week grading cycle they will want to get back into regular classes. Dr. Jakubowski said that the original Sundown program was instituted because the district was trying to find an alternative for disruptive students. He said that when Saturday Detention was first instituted it really was an absolute deterrent but now Saturday Detention is not the deterrent it was at one time. Mr. Manochio asked if a criteria would be developed for the students that are selected for this program. He wanted to know how a determination could be made without any type of criteria. Dr. Jakubowski said he thought that Mr. Gibbons and his staff have established in their minds the type of student that they are looking to put into the program. He said that he could get Mr. Gibbons to write up a general criteria. Mr. Manochio asked if there would be four teachers per grade. Dr. Jakubowski said that right now, each of the Assistant Principals believe they could come up with four students in each grade level that should be in this program which would add up to sixteen students. He said for the individuals teaching in the program there will be a physical education teacher, and an English, Math, Science and Social Studies teacher which would allow for five sections each evening. Dr. Jakubowski said he believed that there would be no physical education classes on Friday, no matter what, because the students will have 150 minutes for the week with four sessions. He said there was some talk about doing it in a "block" scheduling form but Mr. Gibbons was concerned that some of the students in the program do not have an attention span of more than fifteen or twenty minutes and how could they be expected to sit through an eighty minute class. Mr. Gibbons has suggested that the subjects be rotated from day to day. He felt this was the fair way to do the scheduling. Dr. Jakubowski said that he believed that Mr. Gibbons wants to make this a real educational program and it is his goal that students will not want to remain in the program for a long period. He said that the object of the program was to get the student to change his/her behavior and get back into the daytime program.

50 Year Graduates/Teacher Recognition - Dr. Jakubowski said that he and Mr. Damato met with representatives of ARAMARK to discuss the 50 year graduate program and also doing a program to honor teachers at the end of the school year. He said that the district was finally able to get the teacher recognition dinner back because the Superintendent's Roundtable reached out to certain individuals and Kean University will be sponsoring the dinner. Dr. Jakubowski said that Mr. Damato set up the meeting with ARAMARK and they may at least sponsor the refreshments for the 50 year graduates as well as for the Education Foundation reception. He said that he was going to tell Mrs. Ferrara to look into the matter. Dr. Jakubowski said that the board can absolutely give staff members some type of certificate and hopefully a small reception. He said that at the end of January, ARAMARK will be doing a breakfast program at Hannah Caldwell School and will be inviting all parents to encourage the breakfast program. Mr. Damato said that for many years Schering Plough sponsored the Education Foundation reception in May and this year, due to the economy and budget cutbacks Schering Plough decided they can no longer provide a space for the reception nor provide anything toward the reception. He said at a previous board meeting, the Education Foundation asked to use Union High School Library for the reception. Mr. Damato said that a few individuals on the Education Foundation board did not feel this was the best location and thought that another location could be found which would be more conducive to a party for 100 people. He said that in the past the reception served wine and cheese and wine cannot be served at the high school. Mr. Damato said that he and Mrs. Lipstein went to Liberty Hall and asked if they would be interested in a partnership with the Education Foundation and they were very excited about it. He said Liberty Hall's board voted last week and the reception will be held at that location. Mr. Damato said that he thinks he has someone to sponsor the food and wine and hopefully the reception will come together. Dr. Jakubowski said that trying to find sponsorships is a good thing in view of the current financial situation in the community. He said that the problem with the 50 year graduates, they are not having their big reunion in June as past classes have had. Dr. Jakubowski said he did not anticipate the attendance to be as large as it has in past years. He said that he would speak to Mrs. Ferrara to get starting planning and see where it goes from there. He said that he would also like to have something for present staff members. Mrs. Gaglione just wanted to make sure that the board was not violating any of the new regulations that are coming down from the State. Dr. Jakubowski said that Ms. Dunn would not let him violate any of the new regulations. Mr. Damato said that he is trying to find some "creative" ways of doing things without violating the new regulations.

FISCAL AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Mr. Helmstetter presented the Fiscal and Planning agenda. He said that resolutions F-7 and F-9 would be voted on this evening.

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

F-7. APPROVE DISTRICTWIDE TRAVEL AND RELATED EXPENSES PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF *N.J.S.A. 18A:11-12*, *N.J.A.C. 6A:23B* and BOARD POLICY FILE CODES 4133, 4440 and 9250

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

F-9. PRE-APPROVE DISTRICTWIDE STUDENT FIELD TRIP DESTINATIONS AND PURPOSES

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

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Perkins asked if the board could take a minute to review the back up for these resolutions before voting. Dr. Jakubowski said that there were several items listed on the backup of resolution F-9 which had to be approved tonight. Mr. Helmstetter asked that any items on the back up for resolution F-9 which list January 20<sup>th</sup> as the meeting date be changed to reflect that these items were approved on January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION WAS CARRIED

#### OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:

Mr. Abraham stated that the Operations Committee met earlier in the evening. He presented the agenda. Mrs. Gaglione asked if resolution O-5 refers to work that has already been done on the football field. Mr. Abraham said that apparently there was a "soft spot" on the field that needed to be taken care of which was done and this change order reflects the additional work done.

#### DISCUSSION ITEM

Fee Waiver – Union Little League - Mr. Abraham stated that a letter was received from Union Little League which is requesting that there be a waiver of fees for the use of the gymnasium and auditorium at Connecticut Farms on Saturday from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. He said that in the course of the committee's discussion, it was determined that the Union Little League has, in past year's, paid fees for an energy charge and a charge for having a custodian on duty. Mr. Abraham said that the Board has not charged a "rental" fee on the facility itself. He said that the letter which the league sent expressed that paying these fees would be a financial hardship this year. Mr. Abraham said that it was the recommendation of the committee that the board maintain policy and charge exactly as it has in the past. Mr. Helmstetter said that the league has paid the fees for the past four or five years and no rental fee has ever been charged. Mrs. Gaglione asked if any board member felt that the board needed to waive the fees to the Little League. It was the consensus of the board that the fees would not be waived.

#### PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mr. Manochio said that the committee met with the Superintendent earlier in the evening and he presented the agenda. Mrs. Gaglione asked that the fee reflected in resolution P-6 be checked and if necessary, be changed on next week's agenda.

#### DISCUSSION ITEMS

Equipment Manager - Mr. Manochio said that the committee discussed the idea of hiring an equipment manager for the athletic department. Dr. Jakubowski said that over the years the equipment manager was always the athletic trainer. He said that because there are more and more teams, there are more minor injuries than ever before. Dr. Jakubowski said that Ms. Ionta has indicated with the work that the trainer has to do, monitoring of the equipment, etc. has become overwhelming and she believes that the district would be best served with an equipment manager. Dr. Jakubowski said that he has spoken to other

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districts and most districts do have an equipment manager. He said that Ms. Ionta was thinking of paying this individual a larger amount of money than he was thinking of. Dr. Jakubowski said that he wanted to look at some of the other extracurricular activities that the district presently has and maybe set the stipend at what is paid to one of the freshman level coaches. He said that it would be a position that would be posted and it would be part of the UTEA. Dr. Jakubowski said that the district is very lucky because it has several individuals who are certified trainers. He said that he did let Ms. Ionta know that if this position was filled the individual would not start until March 1<sup>st</sup>. Dr. Jakubowski said that before the board can hire an individual, it will have to pass a resolution creating the position.

## APPROVAL OF BILLS

Mrs. Gaglione stated that the board would be asked to approve payment of bills at the regular meeting next week.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Dr. Jakubowski asked the board if it had discussed the marching band trip to Virginia at a prior meeting. The board members said that the issue had been discussed. He said that he would speak to Ms. Muller tomorrow to let her know that the trip had been approved. Dr. Jakubowski said that he has also received a request from Ms. Lischak for a trip to Boston by the Gifted and Talented class at Burnet and Kawameeh. He said that it would be added to the agenda for approval.

Dr. Jakubowski said that he wanted to update the board on high school redesign and preschool expansion. He said that he has not had an opportunity to listen to the Governor's address yesterday and he did not know if he spoke about schools at all or any funding for schools. Dr. Jakubowski said that it is an absolute that all "universal" schools (schools that have over 40% of their population on free or reduced lunch) must move forward on preschool expansion for the 2009-2010 school year. He was not sure what was happening for all other schools yet. Dr. Jakubowski said that the district is moving forward as if the program will begin next school year. He said that with regard to high school redesign, he said there was a meeting in Trenton the last week of January and testimony will be given. Dr. Jakubowski said that he was asked to attend but he will not be able to attend. He said that he would be meeting with several people to discuss an outline with them and advise them of his position on high school redesign. Dr. Jakubowski said that

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all students should have to take certain required courses to graduate however, he did not think that all students should be required to take Algebra I or Chemistry and he felt that these requirements will impact on some of the elective courses that are offered at Union High School. Dr. Jakubowski said that he had a meeting in Trenton on Friday and the Commissioner of Education would be speaking at that meeting. He hoped that there would be some updates at that time.

Dr. Jakubowski said that he was at a meeting at the County Office earlier in the day with regard to setting up a County School Calendar. He said that one of the things that was brought up at the meeting was should the County Superintendent have the ability to call a district and say that the district must close early because of snow, should the County Superintendent be the one who determines if a school district will be closed for a snow day and should there be an absolute County Calendar and all districts would be off on all of the same days throughout the school year. He said part of this is that the County is looking for efficiencies in transportation. Dr. Jakubowski said that the board knows why Union does not close early on a snow day; because the district does a lot of busing and parents know that they can pick up their children at any time during the day. He said that he did not want anyone in the county office telling him that school had to close early. Dr. Jakubowski thought it was the position in Trenton to give more and more power to an Executive County Superintendent and take away local control. Mr. Perkins said that he has given a lot of thought about this and he thought it was very clear that the Governor and the Commissioner of Education want to make the provision of education more efficient and the way they see doing that is to eliminate local boards of education. He said at first blush this seems like a pretty good idea especially when you see the variance of the quality of people in the boards of education; either their responsiveness to the needs of a community or to their attentiveness to the needs of their students as opposed to the political considerations that apply. Mr. Perkins said that the recent political campaign has caused many more citizens to be come involved in their government that have never been involved before. He said that often it seems that the government is on one side and the citizens are on the other and when the government does something the citizens are the victim. Mr. Perkins said that the truth of the matter is that the citizens govern themselves. He said one of the ways to enhance this is have involvement by the citizens. Mr. Perkins thought that is was very important to have citizens become involved on a local level, meeting local needs and talking to their neighbors about what are the community's needs. He said that he would strongly oppose the position that the Governor takes and he would never write the type of letter which was written by the Cranford Board of Education. Mr. Perkins

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said he did, however, feel that the board did have an obligation as citizens of the State and as representatives of the Township to have their voices heard. Mr. Figueiredo said that the letter which was eventually sent from the Cranford Board of Education was much more diluted than the original letter which the board discussed last month. He said it would be interesting to see what the response to this letter from the State was. Mrs. Gaglione said that at the last meeting she attended it was brought up that an individual board member could even write an editorial to a newspaper as long as they indicate that this is their personal opinion and not that of the entire board unless the entire board decides to write an article. She said that it was very easy to call NJ School Boards and voice an opinion regarding an issue on behalf of a local school board. Mr. Perkins said that typically a trade association or interest group will formulate a position and get four or five key players to agree but it would not hurt to have a board of education present a position to the Commissioner.

Mr. Manochio asked if the issue of four marking periods at Union High School was still in discussion. Dr. Jakubowski said it was and he intended to discuss this matter at the February planning session. He said that he has asked Mr. Gibbons to come up with some ideas about whether there will be mid-term exams and other issues. Dr. Jakubowski said that Mr. Gibbons truly feels that going back to four marking periods is the right thing to do.

Mrs. Salazar gave an update for the technology committee. She said that Ms. Hart has met with Promedia regarding the networking and security problems and hopefully Promedia can assist Ms. Hart in these areas. Mrs. Salazar said that the security camera problem is very complicated and there is no proper maintenance agreement for the cameras. She said that Ms. Hart would be going to an outside company who may be able to assist in assessing the system that the district presently has. Mrs. Salazar said that Ms. Hart is also looking to change the data base system for student information. She said that currently the district uses *StarBase* and she wants to change it to *Genesis*. Dr. Jakubowski said that the first assignment that he gave to Ms. Hart was to see if all the district's systems could be combined on one system. He said that Mrs. Ging has given him an RFP to review for network systems. Dr. Jakubowski said that he and Mr. Damato would have to discuss this before it was advertised.

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Dr. Jakubowski said that he has received a recommendation from Ms. Hart indicating the district's IT department is too small. He said that Ms. Hart has interviewed several individuals. Dr. Jakubowski said that he wanted to discuss this issue in depth at the February planning session. He said that there are some issues that really need to be addressed and one of them is manpower.

Mrs. Gaglione said that security has always been an important issue to her and she felt that the district should continue to strive to get things corrected.

Mrs. Gaglione asked about a leak at the high school near the cafeteria and she asked for an update on it. Mr. Magliacano said that a districtwide roof bid was being prepared. Mrs. Gaglione asked if the same type of roof would be installed. Mr. Magliacano said it would be the same. Mrs. Gaglione said she understood that there was a flood in one of the cafeterias at the high school. Mr. Magliacano said that it was part of the same roof leaking problem. Mrs. Gaglione said that she also heard about a leak problem at Franklin School. Dr. Jakubowski said that this leak happened over the holiday recess. He said that the district has many roofing issues that need to be addressed. Dr. Jakubowski said that the health department has been to Franklin and it has been determined that there are no asbestos issues. He said that he spoke to parents who were concerned about the leaks and advised them that this was a problem that had occurred many years ago when he was the principal at the school. Dr. Jakubowski said that there is also a big issue with the roof at Central-Five over the gymnasium. Mr. Magliacano said that he has a purchase order out to a vendor who will do an infrared scan of the entire Franklin School roof and it will show water penetration. Dr. Jakubowski said that some of the problems with the Franklin School roof were caused when the air conditioning units and air ducts were installed.

## NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Perkins stated that the Union High School basketball team was playing in a tournament at Prudential Center in Newark. He thought that this was a significant accomplishment and he thought that Mr. DiGiovanni was doing a fabulous job as the basketball coach. Dr. Jakubowski said that the boys' track team won the County Relays next weekend and the girls' team came in second. He said that the boys' 4 x 100 team was selected to run in the Melrose Games on Wednesday night.

## COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Ms. Hall thanked the board for approving the professional development plan. She said that Ms. Mangarella and Ms. LaMort worked extremely hard to develop this plan.

Ms. Hall asked about freshman students being involved in the extended school day program. She wanted to know if originally freshman were not going to be considered for the program. Dr. Jakubowski said that when he was told that there were four students at each grade level, he questioned putting freshman into a program with upperclassmen. He said that Mr. Gibbons will make the final decision on which students are in the program. Ms. Hall thought that the investment in time might do better with the freshman and the sophomores than the older students.

Ms. Hall said that when she graduated high school in 1975 and at that time there were four marking periods and a valedictorian, so it can be done. She felt that in a high school setting, this was more appropriate than a semester grade.

Ms. Hall asked Mr. Tatum if she was listed on the approval tonight to attend her convention in Atlantic City? Mr. Tatum said he would double check it.

Ms. Hall invited the members of the board to attend a program at Kawameeh Middle School next Tuesday called "Project Pride" which is a program run by the Department of Corrections. She said that four incarcerated men will speak to students about decision making and the consequences of decision making. Ms. Hall said that there would be two shows; one at 12:30 and one at 1:30.

Mr. Perkins wanted to remind the board that next Monday was Martin Luther King Day and there would be a celebration held at Hannah Caldwell School. He encouraged board members to attend.

Mrs. Gaglione said that no time was set for the February Planning Session which is scheduled on Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. She asked if 8:00 a.m. was okay with all board members. There was a consensus that the meeting begin at 8:00 a.m.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

There being no further business before the board it was moved by Mr. Manochio and seconded by Mr. Figueiredo that the meeting be adjourned. All present voting yes.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES J. DAMATO  
BOARD SECRETARY