

UNION BOARD OF EDUCATION
Worksession – June 13, 2006

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

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL: Mr. Gary Abraham, Mrs. Judith Axelrod, Mr. Steven Helmstetter (President), Mrs. Linda Gaglione, Mrs. Versie McNeil, Mr. Francis Perkins, Mrs. Judy Salazar and Mr. Steve Ruhl

ABSENT AT ROLL CALL: Mr. Anthony Manochio

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Mr. James Damato, Ms. Karen Dunn, Dr. Theodore Jakubowski and Mrs. Barbara Lombardi

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Helmstetter at 7:00 p.m. Mrs. Gaglione 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.

Mr. Helmstetter asked each board member to review the minutes of the Worksession and Executive Session of May 9, 2006 and the minutes of the regular meeting of May 16, 2006 for formal action at next week's meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS:

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

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON RESOLUTIONS #O-4, #O-7 and #P-1.

Mrs. Ciampi asked if each department requests their own supplies, as referred to in resolution #O-4. Mr. Damato said that bids go back to supervisors in the respective areas to be analyzed and they decide what needs to be purchased based on the lowest amount bid.

Mrs. Ciampi asked if the HVAC bid is the same project that was bid on in the past. Mr. Damato said that there was a previous bid that was accepted, which was much higher than this bid, however it was rejected because it was more than the architect estimated the job would cost.

EDUCATION/STUDENT DISCIPLINE:

Mrs. Axelrod presented the Education/Student Discipline agenda. Mrs. Axelrod said that the committee met with Ms. Lombardi to discuss the agenda.

Ms. Dunn said that 156 students attend Union County Vocational-Technical school as referred to in resolution #E-7. Dr. Jakubowski added that approximately 25 students attend the magnet school.

Mrs. Axelrod said that the elimination of the severe learning language disabilities class at Hannah Caldwell School, as referred to in resolution #E-10, is being replaced by an autistic program.

Mrs. Lombardi said that the preliminary report on the HSPA scores was very positive. She said all categories of the test scores were increased in advanced proficient and proficient except one category, which may have decreased the number of proficient by a half point. Mrs. Lombardi said there was a nice increase across the board; the total student population made adequate yearly progress for both language arts literacy and mathematics, and safe harbor for adequate yearly progress for most sub groups. Mrs. Lombardi said the cycle 1 preliminary report does not include alternate proficiency assessment scores; also scores of students that were not in the district for the entire year need to be removed from the results.

Mrs. Axelrod asked what percentage of students who attended the HSPA after-school program was successful. Mrs. Lombardi said that 75% of the students that completed the after-school program were proficient on the test.

Mrs. Lombardi said that special education test scores also made progress. She said students that had to pass the test to graduate were 85% proficient or advanced proficient, which was a significant increase over the past two years.

Mrs. Axelrod said that Mrs. Lombardi presented the following three curriculum proposals: statistics, mathematics analysis and basic technology. She said that the committee recommended that the board move forward with these proposals.

Mr. Perkins asked if there is any district in the state that offers a behind the wheel driving education course. Dr. Jakubowski said he was not sure and that he would check with Ms. Ionta.

FISCAL AND PLANNING:

Mr. Gaglione presented the Fiscal and Planning Agenda. She said the committee met and had a lengthy discussion regarding items on the agenda.

OPERATIONS:

Mr. Abraham presented the Operations Agenda. He said the committee met to discuss items on the agenda.

Moved by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Ruhl that resolutions O-4 and O-7 be adopted:

O-4. AWARD SUPPLY BIDS FOR 2006-2007 SCHOOL YEAR

That the board award supply bids for the 2006-2007 school year as follows:

PLUMBING SUPPLIES – Goldie Industrial - \$559.75; Johnstone Supply - \$778.29; Grant Supply - \$9,225.43 and Westside Supply - \$19,598.19 – TOTAL BID \$30,161.66

GROUND SUPPLIES – Fertl Soil - \$1,445.45; Goldie Industrial- \$1,191.66 and Lesco \$8,354.60 – TOTAL BID \$10,991.71

JANITORIAL SUPPLIES – All American - \$1,378.00; Goldie Industrial - \$1,300.53; Madsen - \$22,106.93; Scoles Floorshine - \$130,416.42 and Unipak - \$14,460.00 – TOTAL BID \$169,661.88

HVAC SUPPLIES – CF Connolly - \$53.86; Goldie Industrial - \$59.42; and Johnstone Supply - \$5,137.66 – TOTAL BID \$5,250.94

ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES – Cooper Electric - \$12,706.06; Goldie Industrial - \$33.36; Turtle Hughes - \$18,951.26; and Jewel Electric - \$1,945.26 – TOTAL BID \$33,635.94.

ATHLETIC SUPPLIES – AAE - \$659.60; BSN/Passons - \$856.80; Circle Systems - \$826.25; Eflingers - \$114,133.20; Henry Schein - \$4,145.11 and Metuchen Center - \$11,714.98-TOTAL BID \$132,337.94

NURSES SUPPLIES – Collins Sports Medicine - \$4,807.94; Eflingers - \$7,650.00; Henry Schein - \$6,025.38 and PSS - \$6,247.14 – TOTAL BID \$24,930.46

PHYSICAL EDUCATION SUPPLIES – Eflingers – \$5,632.50 and Passons – 9,062.52 – TOTAL BID \$14,695.02

RECONDITIONING OF ATHLETIC EQUIPMENT - Circle Systems in a total bid amount not to exceed \$45,000

SCIENCE SUPPLIES – Carolina Biological - \$2,424.19; Science Kit and Boreal - \$12,992.66; Wards Natural Science - \$1,536.59; Flinn Scientific - \$3,402.88 and Frey Scientific - \$1,872.15 – TOTAL BID \$22,228.47

O-7. AWARD BID FOR DISTRICT OFFICE HVAC UPGRADES AT BURNET MIDDLE SCHOOL – ENVIROCON, L.L.C.

That the board award bid for proposed District Office HVAC Upgrades at Burnet Middle School to Envirocon, L.L.C., 490 Schooleys Mountain Road, Hackettstown, NJ 07840 for the base bid of \$193,678 plus Alternate A-1 in the amount of \$18,000 for a total bid of \$201,678.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Abraham said Envirocon made a mistake in adding the total bid price. He said the total base bid price was supposed to be \$211, 678 and the bid is being accepting at \$201,678. Mr. Perkins said this is an obvious mistake and asked if the board can get away with it? Mr. Damato said that he spoke to the bidder about the error. He said many times a company will bid high or low on the alternates and put most of the bid in their base bid. He said Envirocon bid is based on the total bid plus the sum of all the alternates. Mr. Damato said the bid could be interpreted to mean that if Envirocon is awarded the job then they would do the whole job at \$201,678 but if they just get the base bid then the cost would be \$193, 678. Mr. Damato said there is an economy of scale if the whole job is awarded. Mr. Perkins asked if the bidder understands that the bid price is \$201, 678. Mr. Damato replied – yes.

AYE: Mr. Abraham, Mrs. Axelrod, Mrs. Gaglione, Mrs. McNeil, Mr. Perkins, Mr. Ruhl, Mrs. Salazar, and Mr. Helmstetter
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: None Motion was carried

PERSONNEL:

Mr. Abraham presented the Personnel Agenda.

In reference to resolution #P-20 (payment for printing service), Dr. Jakubowski said it is not yet determined who will provide the service.

In reference to resolution #P-21 (appointment of Affirmative Action Office), Dr. Jakubowski said that the person is not yet decided.

Dr. Jakubowski asked for permission from the board to discuss an increase for the annual stipend for Dr. Gallick, Dr. Eisenstat and Dr. Calamari, as referred to in resolution #P-23, #P-24, & #P-25. The board members agreed that if the doctors were not asking for an increase then the stipend should remain status-quo.

Moved by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Ruhl that resolution P-1 be adopted:

P-1. APPROVE PERSONNEL ACTIONS

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

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Perkins said that the names listed for personnel action, as referred to in resolution #P-1, is public information. He asked Dr. Jakubowski to identify the people on the list. Dr. Jakubowski read each person listed.

Dr. Jakubowski announced that Greg Tatum will be the new Assistant Superintendent. He said the Ms. Lombardi and Ms. Dunn were also part of the interview process. Dr. Jakubowski said that he felt that Mr. Tatum is a good choice for the position. He said that Mr. Tatum would work well with the business office and also with Mr. Damato with residency. Mr. Helmstetter said that he that he concurred with Dr. Jakubowski decision.

AYE:	Mr. Abraham, Mrs. Axelrod, Mrs. Gaglione, Mrs. McNeil, Mr. Perkins, Mr. Ruhl, Mrs. Salazar, and Mr. Helmstetter
NAY:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

Motion was carried

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Abraham said that he would like to give a brief presentation on the bond situation at the public meeting.

Ms. Axelrod asked if the new letters came in for the press box. Mr. Magliacano replied - yes.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dr. Jakubowski reminded the board members that the 50th year graduation reception will be held on Saturday, June 17, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Perkins said that he is looking forward to attending the reception. He said that he grew up in Union and will know many of the graduates.

Dr. Jakubowski said that the reception for employees that are retiring will be held on June 20th prior to the regular meeting; student awards will be presented at 6:30 and the regular board meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Perkins said that a copy of file code 1251 from the policy manual (Loitering and Causing Disturbances) was distributed to each board member. He said the language needed to be modified. Mr. Helmstetter voiced his concern with the hours of allowing people on school property. He said many times people walk on the track late in the evening. Mr. Perkins felt that the board could specify the times for use of the track for adults and to consider the possibility of registration, authorization, and identification cards for use of the track. Dr. Jakubowski felt that 8:30 p.m. is not a reasonable time to prohibit people on school property. He said many times students gather to talk in the high school parking lot at that time and there has never been any vandalism. Mr. Damato said that the hours were based on all schools, and that the intent is keep kids off of the elementary school grounds after dark. Mr. Perkins said that the language of the policy needed to be changed. He asked each board member to review the policy and give their suggestions to him by Friday.

Mr. Perkins said that there is a proposal for the adoption of a regulation, which must be done under federal law, to continue to receive federal grant money for a school lunch program on nutrition. The first proposal is the form proposed by the New Jersey School Board, which covers the real estate and meets the requirement leaving the enhancement of the program an option. Mr. Perkins suggested that the board adopt the proform of formand then talk more about nutrition, health, and fitness in a broader context.

Ms. Dunn said that there has been discussion with Mr. Vieira, Dr. Jakubowski, and Ms. Leavitt about a nutrition policy. She said in August the administrators will review the policy and a committee will be set up with Ms. Ionta to enhance the policy. Mr. Perkins said there was discussion on forming an Ad Hoc committee on health and fitness.

Ms. Lombardi briefly discussed the team-fitness program at Union High School. She said the program was a three-month long program for students to lose weight. She said that the team was very successful this year. Mrs. Lombardi said that the team submitted a proposal about forming a club for next year.

Dr. Jakubowski suggested that everyone watch channel 34. He said that he interviewed the valedictorian and salutatorian and that these two ladies were articulate in they way they spoke. Dr. Jakubowski said that one of the girls will be attending Duke University and the other will be attending Princeton University. Dr. Jakubowski said that the community should be very proud of these two young ladies.

Dr. Jakubowski voiced his concern with the large number of Kawameeh students not going to the high school. He said that he wants to form a committee in September to establish strategies on keeping students from not going to private schools. Dr. Jakubowski also suggested that students visit the high school in the seventh grade rather than the eighth grade because usually a parent makes their decision by the eighth grade.

Mr. Helmstetter said that many people did not get the school newsletter. Dr. Jakubowski said that he investigated the matter, adding that some of the problem is with the mail carriers.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Donnarumma asked Mr. Damato if the amount of \$25,000 for school board attorney as referred to in resolution #P-14 is correct. Mr. Damato replied – yes.

Mr. Donnarumma asked if physical therapy to a special education student is a requirement, as referred to in resolution #P-30. Ms. Dunn said that physical therapy is part of the student's I.E.P. Dr. Jakubowski explained that student originally lived in Union, and then moved to Cranford. Cranford took over all of the out-of-district expenses. The student then moved back to Union and Cranford continued to pay the tuition for a while and Union agreed to pay for other expenses. Mr. Donnarumma said he thought physical therapy is a parental responsibility. Dr. Jakubowski said that fewer things are becoming a parental responsibility; adding that almost everything for a special education student is becoming the school district's cost.

Ms. Ciampi asked why the agreement between the board of education and the Union County Education Services Commission is for 10 years. Ms. Axelrod said that the actual language of the contract does not change from year to year, and that Union County Services is trying to cut down of the volume of materials.

Ms. Ciampi asked if Mr. Taylor, new hire for industrial arts, was on the same salary guide when he left the district. Dr. Jakubowski replied that he was put on the same step in the salary guide as when he left the district last year.

Ms. Ciampi asked how Mr. Tatum's salary was determined. Dr. Jakubowski said that there is not a salary guide; the salary was determined based on a percentage increase of his current salary as a principal.

Ms. Ciampi commended Kawameeh on the Family Fitness Day Program. She said the Alliance Club finances the program and recommended that other schools participate in the program.

Ms. Ciampi said that her son chose to go to a private school because of the number of students in the school. She said the numbers will never change, however she felt he would have received an excellent education at Union High School.

Ms. Hall said that for personal reasons she did not choose to send her children to Union High School. She said Union High offers many opportunities that private schools do not have. Ms. Hall felt that open house at Union High School pushed more people away; she said the program was not handled correctly to promote the school and did not reach out to the families in Union in the right way. Mr. Helmstetter said that the program has improved over the past couple of years. He said the goal is to reach out to students in the seventh grade. Dr. Jakubowski said it is his concern why 97 percent of students from Burnet go to the high school and only 75 percent of Kawameeh students go to the high school. Dr. Jakubowski said that the mindset of the community is that if you went to Kawameeh you went to a country club, and if you went to Burnet you have an entire population from one part of town, that the other side of town did not deal with. Dr. Jakubowski said that there are a lot of factors why so many Kawameeh students go on to private schools. He said that the parents make the decision on where to send their children to school.

Ms. Loessel said that "Students for a Day" is a wonderful program at Union High School. She said the program is only a half-day program and should have been a full day. Ms. Loessel said that the high school building should also be open during the summer for students to visit.

Mr. Donnarumma said that Union High School is a great school. He said that although there are some problems it is a better school than most schools in the area. Mr. Donnarumma said, "If you can't learn in Union High School, then you can't learn anywhere".

MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 8:25 p.m. it was moved by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Ms. Axelrod that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss personnel, student matters, and potential litigation without the presence of the public in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 10:4-2b. The Board will disclose the discussion conducted during the executive session, with notice to the public, when the disclosure will not result in unwarranted invasion of individual privacy or prejudice to the best interest of the board of education and provide 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, Mrs. McNeil, Mr. Perkins, Mr. Ruhl, Mrs. Salazar and Mr. Helmstetter
NAY:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

Motion was carried

THE BOARD RETURNED TO PUBLIC SESSION AT 10:07 P.M.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

There being no further business before the board, on motion of Mr. Perkins, seconded by Mr. Abraham, the meeting was adjourned. All present voting yes.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES J. DAMATO
BOARD SECRETARY