

UNION TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
WORKSESSION - MARCH 12, 2007

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

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

ABSENT AT ROLL CALL: Mr. Gary Abraham

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Helmstetter at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Perkins 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 regular meeting of February 13, 2007, the Mid-Year Planning Session of February 24, 2007 and the Executive Session of February 24, 2007.

Communications:

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

Education/Student Discipline Committee

Mrs. Axelrod stated that earlier in the evening the Education Committee met with Mrs. DiGiovanni, the principal of Franklin Elementary School and Mrs. DiGiovanni gave the committee a good insight into her personality and the personality of the school. Mrs. Axelrod said that Mrs. DiGiovanni gave the committee some of the specific things that Franklin School has been doing in terms of trying to prepare the student for "life after Franklin" but also for the various testing programs that are a necessary "evil" at this point in time. She said that the big push at Franklin School, since so many of the students there are from other countries and have parents, some with limited educations and limited facilities at home, was to use their D.E.P.A. money for special programs and the faculty has stressed the importance of reading. Mrs. Axelrod said that Franklin School has had many programs with a sizeable amount of parent participation, which was very nice to hear. She said that Mrs. DiGiovanni feels that the parents at Franklin are very interested in their children and they just need a little

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bit of help in figuring out how the parents can best help their children in an inexpensive way. Mrs. Axelrod said that Franklin has a before school reading program, fifteen (15) minutes of reading at lunch time, there is reading on the weekends and a real push to help the students succeed. She said that Mrs. DiGiovanni feels that if the students are confident when taking tests, that will help the students to do better because their anxieties will be alleviated. Mrs. Axelrod stated that Mrs. DiGiovanni is very positive about the school and about the students and faculty at Franklin which was very nice to hear.

Mrs. Axelrod presented the Education agenda. She said that all of the resolutions were discussed except for E-4 which deals with the Comprehensive Equity Plan and she asked if this would be sent home on Friday. Dr. Jakubowski stated that the committee is still working to complete the Plan. He said that he would try to sent it home in the Friday packet for review by the board but if it is not ready until Monday, it will be sent home on Monday afternoon. Mrs. Axelrod said that Mrs. Lombardi had mentioned that there was a very brief timeline provided to prepare the report. Dr. Jakubowski said that there was a very brief timeline and there have been things added to the report that were never required before. He said that Mrs. Marcus is very precise and she wants to make sure that the plan is prepared correctly.

Mrs. Axelrod stated that Mrs. Lombardi brought to the committee's attention that there are four new curriculum proposals for classes at Union High School. She said that two of these proposals were prepared by Mrs. Hart, the Supervisor of Mathematics 9-12 and they are each one semester courses and they would be offered in tandem so that a student would be have one semester of *Mathematical Logic* and the second semester would be *Financial Literacy*. Mrs. Axelrod asked if copies of the curriculum proposals could be sent home to the board in their Friday packet. Mrs. Lombardi said she would make copies available for distribution. Mrs. Axelrod said that the third curriculum proposal which was also developed by Mrs. Hart and that would be an *AP Computer Science* course and this was developed because a number of schools in the area are now offering a course of this nature for students who are interested in taking this course of study in college. She said that the fourth curriculum proposed was developed by Mr. Ballin, the Social Studies Supervisor at Union High School and it was an *Honors Humanities* course as well as with continuing with the current Humanities course because Mr. Ballin feels that there are some students not taking the current Humanities course because they are looking for a "weighted" class for their grade point average. Mrs. Axelrod stated that the education

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committee concurred with Mrs. Lombardi to go forward with the development of these four curriculums. She said that they would not be offered at Union High School until the Fall of 2008 because the cycle for developing a new course takes between twelve and eighteen months.

Mr. Manochio asked about the letter received from the Superintendent of the Union County Vocational-Technical Schools which was the subject of resolution E-3 and he wanted to know if the student was being deleted due to her attendance. Dr. Jakubowski said that the student had moved from Union to Springfield and this student would be deleted from the district's rolls and her new district would be responsible to pay her tuition for the Magnet School.

Fiscal and Planning Committee

Mrs. Gaglione stated that the Fiscal and Planning Committee did meet and discussed all resolutions on the agenda. She said that there are two sections for Fiscal and Planning on the agenda this evening; one section concerning the proposed budget for 2007-2008 would be voted on this evening and the second section was for consideration at the regular meeting. Mrs. Gaglione presented the fiscal and planning agenda for the regular meeting. Mr. Helmstetter asked about the rates for this month's investments and asked why they were different. Ms. Dunn said that the interest rates are obtained by blind bids and usually the banks base the rates on the terms of the investment and the amounts.

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

ADOPT PROPOSED TENTATIVE 2007-2008 SCHOOL BUDGET FOR SUBMISSION TO COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT FOR APPROVAL

That the proposed tentative 2007-2008 school budget be adopted and sent to the County Superintendent for approval.

APPROVE AMOUNT OF GENERAL FUNDS TO APPEAR ON BALLOT – APRIL 17, 2007

That there should be raised for General Funds \$72,223,280 for the ensuing school year 2007-2008 and that this amount appear on the ballot to be voted upon at the Annual District School Election to be held on April 17, 2007.

APPROVE ALLOWABLE AUTOMATIC TAX LEVY ADJUSTMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

That Allowable Automatic Tax Levy Adjustment for the fiscal year 2008 in the amount of \$637,950 be approved in accordance with the formal resolution appended to these minutes.

Fiscal and Planning Committee

APPROVE 2007-2008 DEPA OPERATIONAL PLANS

That the board approve 2007-2008 DEPA Operational Plans in accordance with the information appended to these minutes: (a) Hannah Caldwell Elementary School – \$173,771.27; (b) Connecticut Farms Elementary School- \$146,619.22; (c) Franklin Elementary School - \$183,962.76

APPROVE FOR SUBMITTAL TO COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT APPENDIX E

That the board approve for submittal to the County Superintendent of Schools, Appendix E (Required Documentation to Support Estimated Fund Balance) along with the January 31, 2007 Secretary's Report as required documentation to support the estimated fund balance as of June 30, 2007 pursuant to Exhibit C-1 (Recapitulation of Balances) as contained in the proposed 2007-2008 school budget, in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

APPROVE ADVERTISED CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECTS

That the board approve Advertised Capital Outlay Projects in the total amount of \$1,000,000 in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

APPROVE TRAVEL EXPENDITURE MAXIMUM

That the board approve Travel Expenditure Maximum in a total amount of \$125,000 in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

DISCUSSION

Mrs. McNeil said that she noticed on the D.E.P.A. operating budgets that teachers in Hannah Caldwell School were making more than the teachers at Connecticut Farms School and wanted to know why the rates were different. Dr. Jakubowski said that the rates should be the same as they are determined by the teachers' contract. Ms. Dunn said that the rates can be modified.

Dr. Jakubowski said that Ms. Dunn, Mr. Vieira and Ms. Manochio worked very diligently on the preparation of the budget for next year. He said that it was reported in the Star Ledger that the district would be receiving an additional \$2 million in state aid. Dr. Jakubowski said that part of this amount is called Tara Aid and it is a transitional aid which cannot be put into the budget and the parameters as to what this money can be used for have not been established. He said that what the district needed to do was to take money from other accounts in order to balance the budget. Dr. Jakubowski stated that the district's capital reserve account has been depleted but overall, looking at the budget the

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4% increase on the tax levy is the permitted cap but there are exceptions. He said there was an exception for health insurance and for tuitions costs for special education students over \$40,000. Dr. Jakubowski said that the district qualified for two exceptions but he thought it would be reasonable to apply for the health insurance and that is covered in resolution #2 and this made the overall tax increase \$141.32; which was the lowest tax increase in years. He said that at this time the budget is balanced and no programs or staff have been eliminated. Dr. Jakubowski said that it is imperative that the budget be passed by the community. He referred the board to pages in the budget entitled "Proposed Budget Tax Impact Summary" and he pointed out that this summary shows how the \$141 increased was determined. Dr. Jakubowski asked Ms. Dunn if the district's valuation was changed. Ms. Dunn said that it was decreased by \$2 million. Dr. Jakubowski asked the board to look at the portion of the summary which refers to "local tax levy" and he indicated that the district's local tax levy is exactly the same as it was last year. He said that the district's state aid was increased by approximately ½% point but the district's federal aid went down by almost ¾% point; these are the areas of change. Dr. Jakubowski said that the district has used about the same amount of the capital reserve and surplus accounts. He said that last year was the first time since he has become the superintendent that the budget was defeated and the process afterward was not something that he was comfortable with. Dr. Jakubowski said that he was very disappointed with the outcome. He did not feel that anyone else should be involved with the board of education's budget as he felt what was prepared for the board and what is being sent to the county is a budget which he felt was reasonable and he was confident when it was reviewed by the County Superintendent it will be approved to go to the voters. Dr. Jakubowski said that he is in the process of preparing a newsletter to be sent home to parents; he also intended to do a program on Channel 34 to speak to the entire community regarding the budget. Dr. Jakubowski said that the district "cost per pupil" will probably go down a little. Mr. Manochio asked if the drop in federal aid was basically in the bilingual area. Ms. Dunn said that when she is preparing the budget, she is only allowed to budget for 85% of what the current year revenues are and therefore the district is always budgeting less. She said that the County Superintendent will not approve the budget unless the district only budgeted 85% of the current year revenues. Ms. Dunn said that federal revenues have been decreasing but also the district cannot budget the "true" amount. Mr. Manochio said that he noticed a big drop (10%) in the bilingual education line. Ms. Dunn stated that the bilingual education decrease was a reallocation of

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teachers, a decrease in expenditure based on the number that are charged to that area and not a decrease in money received. Mr. Helmstetter asked all board members as liaisons to the various schools to go the PTA Executive Board meetings and urge parents to go out to support the budget. Dr. Jakubowski said that he was meeting with the PTA presidents next Monday and he would also be visiting all schools and has already made arrangements to meet with two civic associations in the Township. Mr. Perkins said that he has been asked questions about why the district must send its budget to the County Superintendent and what the County Superintendent does and why are public hearings held "after the fact" of doing all of that. He asked Dr. Jakubowski to recap the procedure. Dr. Jakubowski said that the district develops the budget but then it must be approved by the County Superintendent before it is an official document. Mr. Perkins asked if at that time it was a budget proposal. Dr. Jakubowski said that was correct. He said until the County Superintendent approves the budget it is a "draft". Mr. Perkins asked if what the board was voting on tonight was a proposed document to be sent to the County Superintendent for her approval and send it back to the board for public hearings and there can be changes as a result of the public hearings. Dr. Jakubowski agreed.

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

MOTION WAS CARRIED

Operations Committee

Mr. Ruhl presented the Operations agenda. Mrs. Salazar asked about the piece of equipment which was listed for disposal. She wanted to know the date it was disposed of and the reason it was disposed. Mr. Helmstetter said that it has not been disposed of yet and the resolution was to authorize the advertisement of this equipment for disposal.

Discussion items

New Telephone System – Dr. Jakubowski said that since Mr. Tatum was not present tonight he could report to the board that revised proposals have been received from Cisco and Avaya for the system. He said that the district is seeking a plan that would provide voice mail for every teacher. Dr. Jakubowski said that he had also met with Ms. Dunn. He said that there is nothing presently in the budget to cover installation of a new telephone system except for the amount budgeted for monthly

Discussion items

New Telephone System

telephone costs. Dr. Jakubowski said that Ms. Dunn has indicated that the district should be able to work it out in such a way that as long as the monthly telephone costs do not change, the district should be able to obtain a new system. He said that he is struggling making a decision between the two proposals presented to the district because they each offer different things.

Personnel Committee

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

1. ACCEPT PROPOSAL FOR LEGAL SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH *BRADFORD* MATTER – WEINER LESNIAK, LLP

That the board accept proposal of Weiner Lesniak, LLP, 629 Parsippany Road, P.O. Box 0438, Parsippany, New Jersey 07054 to handle litigation in the *Bradford* matter at a blended rate of \$135 per hour for all attorneys and \$60 per hour for clerks/paralegals in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION WAS CARRIED

Mr. Manochio presented the personnel agenda.

MR ABRAHAM ENTERED THE MEETING AT 8 P.M.

Policy Committee

Mr. Perkins presented the policy agenda. He said that the committee recommends the adoption of resolution Pol-1 - Procedure for NCLB (No Child Left Behind) Complaints and Inquiries which is required by federal statute and the district would be adopting a policy in a format which has been published by the NJ School Boards Association. He said that resolution Pol-2 (Student Parking) was one that he was not proposing for adoption this month but rather for publication for comment for adoption either in April or May. Mr. Perkins said that he has spoken about this issue several times and he has reviewed two documents in particular; one which is the *Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement between Education and Law Enforcement Officials* and the other is found on the New Jersey State Bar Foundation website called *Students' Corner*. Mr. Perkins said that there is a "ton" of information contained in the *Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement between Education and Law Enforcement Officials* that many administrators and many law enforcement officials have forgotten exists in this document unless they have read

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it within the last month. He urged board members to read or at least "scan" the document. Mr. Perkins said that this document is comprehensive and includes all of the relationships with respect to particularly search and seizure, the use of drugs and alcohol by students and other activities which are against the law. He said that *Students' Corner* was written by the New Jersey Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union and talks about the legal rights of students on school property particularly with respect to search and seizure for drugs and other contraband. Mr. Perkins said that he had not spoken to anyone in the district with respect to the extent of drug testing and what the district is now doing with regard to that issue, because it was his goal to address the problem of the graduated driver's license requirements and ultimately driver education and the responsibilities to themselves and to others of teen drivers. He said it was not his goal to talk about search and seizure on the other hand it would seem to him that a few concepts come up such as assigned parking spaces and not allowing students to sit in their vehicles except when driving into or out of the parking lot. Mr. Perkins said that he would like to have input from the board members. He said that he would also like Dr. Jakubowski's input as to drug testing and whether the district has a "drug testing pool" with respect to athletes and other members of extracurricular activities. Dr. Jakubowski said that random testing has been something that has been part of the district; how much it is used he could not say without having a conversation with Mr. Parsons. He said that if there is a student who is suspected of using drugs or alcohol, there is a procedure in place for notifying parents/ guardians and testing the student. Mr. Perkins said that the student parking does not obligate the district to do anything. Mr. Manochio asked if there was a worksession in April. Dr. Jakubowski said there was no worksession due to the board election. Mr. Manochio asked if the policy committee could meet to discuss this policy before it goes to the entire board. Mr. Perkins said that the issue is before the entire board right now. Mr. Manochio said that he had concerns which he would rather discuss in committee and since Mr. Perkins did not want to adopt this policy in March, he thought it would be a good idea for the policy committee to meet because some of the issues involved were not crystal clear to him. Mr. Perkins said that this was the purpose of the discussion at this meeting and he asked Mr. Manochio to ask his questions now. Mr. Manochio said he would rather discuss it in committee. Mr. Perkins stated that he was disappointed. Mr. Manochio said that he had concerns about towing which he thought should be clarified for the students' benefit. Mr. Perkins asked Mr. Manochio to state his specific question. He said that one of the things he was concerned about was just this and that is why he distributed the draft policy to board members prior to the meeting. Mr. Perkins said that he would be disappointed if the board did not have the ability to comment on the proposed

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policy. Mr. Helmstetter asked the board if they had a chance to review the policy proposed by Mr. Perkins. Mrs. Salazar thought that the policy was a little lengthy and the language might be a little hard for parents and students to understand. She said that there was a lot of elaboration contained in the policy and she wondered if it could be condensed to be a little more direct and to the point. Mr. Helmstetter questioned the issue of inspecting vehicles and asked Mr. Perkins if he envisioned security monitors from the high school watching students pull into the parking lot each morning or would it be up to the district to monitor the vehicles. Mr. Perkins said that it would be up to the administration. He said that the policy does not compel inspections although he imagined the district would like to do it and he specifically wrote the policy in a way as not to lay on to the administration any more than he felt a board should appropriately impose on the administration. Mr. Perkins told Mrs. Salazar that the policy was written to be "defensible" in court. Mrs. Salazar asked if the proposed policy was for official use only because she felt that if it was the document that would be distributed to the parents, she felt there were part of the document that were not easy to understand. Mr. Perkins stated that the predicate for the policy was set out in the beginning intentionally and in order to make it defensible. He said that if Mrs. Salazar had any particular suggestions without changing the impact of the policy, he would very much appreciate receiving them. Mr. Perkins asked the board to e-mail him with suggestions and all this information would be part of a public file which would support the policy. He said that the document which was in the hands of the board this evening was a working "draft" that he proposed the district put on the website and it is designed to invite comment. Mr. Perkins said that he was disappointed that the board was not prepared to discuss the matter tonight. Mr. Manochio said that he was prepared but he wanted to know what the implementers of the policy were going to do. Mr. Perkins said that he has had conversations with the principal of the high and with Ms. Ionta and the policy was deliberately not directive in terms of what will be done to allow the administrators to do it. Mrs. Gaglione said that she had some concerns with the policy. She was concerned with the dollar amount to be charged for the parking permit. Mr. Perkins asked what the concern was. Mrs. Gaglione thought that the district might not be able to get \$20 from a student for a permit. She said that there may be a student who does not have their own individual car and they might borrow their parents' cars and they would be driving more than one vehicle would the student not be allowed to drive one of the cars to school because it was not registered. Mr. Perkins stated that a student could register more than one vehicle and the policy provides that this may done with the authorization of the administration. Mrs. Gaglione said that she did not read the policy that way. She believed that the board members were here to review

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education to be sure that the district is educating the children properly and that the staff is doing what the district asks and that state guidelines are followed. Mrs. Gaglione personally believed that it was the police department who should be doing searches of vehicles not the high school's security department and it was her concern that if security individuals were not in the school buildings doing what they are supposed to be doing, then additional staff will have to be hired which is going to cost the district more money which the district does not have to follow out the procedures written in this policy. Mr. Perkins said that there is nothing in the policy that compels the administration to do a thing and as to the requirement that schools do searches, he made reference to the agreement which has the force of law with regard to the district. He said it was not a choice, it was not his idea, it was there. Mrs. Gaglione asked why it needed to be written and have it if it, in fact, is already there. Mr. Perkins said that it was because he was talking about vehicles and making very clear (defensible, i.e. advanced consent) that a student can bring a vehicle onto school property but it is subject to search. Mrs. Gaglione said she believed that at any time could be subject to search by a police officer if necessary. Mr. Perkins said that if he was not a lawyer and he did not do the research, he might have agreed with Mrs. Gaglione. Mr. Damato said that maybe he could help out with an explanation. He said that there was a very big difference between police officer initiated searches and school initiated searches. Mr. Damato said the difference is that under a school initiated search, the administration does not need probable cause to search someone, they only need a reasonable suspicion which is much less in the eyes of the law. He said that the police need something called "probable cause" in order to search someone's car. Mr. Damato referred to cases involving "dope sniffing dogs" that have been written about in local newspapers. He said that the district could bring in "dogs" and search students' lockers and whatever is found can be used by the district against a student because the district generally knows that there are students who use drugs. Mr. Damato said that the police cannot bring in "dope sniffing dogs" into the schools, because whatever they find the police cannot use because they don't have "probable cause" and that is the difference. Mrs. Gaglione asked if a vehicle is parked on school property could be searched. Mr. Perkins said that he wouldn't bet on it. Mr. Damato said that the district would probably need some kind of authorization, the authorization being a policy; whether the policy is implemented or not is another issue but without some authorization no school official is authorized to search a car. He said that if the security guards are in the parking lot and something is in plain view, marijuana is on the dashboard of the car and as the security guards walk by they see it, in that case they can search the vehicle; even a police officer could search the vehicle under this circumstance. Dr. Jakubowski said that the intention of the policy is good and he knew that some board members had

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questions as to how the administration implement the policy. He said that this was something he would get out to everyone prior to any vote after he assimilates the whole situation. Dr. Jakubowski referred to an incident that had occurred at Kawameeh Middle School two weeks ago and stated the reason he had instructed Mr. Bell to do a locker clean out in the morning was because that is something the district can do at any time and based on what was being looked for, the police could not come in and insist on a locker clean out. He said that based on the information the police had they could go to one or two lockers specific lockers but if they found nothing there, the police could not go to any other locker in the building without his authorization. Dr. Jakubowski said that his greatest concern from day one with the student parking policy is that once you put something in writing and never implement it, then the students will believe that it doesn't mean anything. He said he was not sure at this moment specifically how the policy would be implemented at this time. Dr. Jakubowski said to think the security guards would be out in the parking lot on a regular basis during dismissal or when the students come to school in the morning will not happen because the security guards are needed inside the school building due to the large enrollment at the high school. He thought the concept of the policy was a good one. Mrs. Gaglione asked if the concept of the policy because of the graduated and provisional driver's licenses or because the district is looking for drugs. Mr. Perkins stated both reasons. He said the aim of the policy was to look at the graduated license requirements and he looking for a way to say that this board takes these issues seriously. Mr. Perkins said that the case law would be on the district's side in these types of cases however, the district must also have a policy to deal with this issue. He said that he thought especially around prom time and the end of the school year, the district would want to know if there alcohol in vehicles which are parked on school property. Mr. Perkins said that a few years ago the country was concerned about Columbine and he commented on how easy it would be to put a weapon in a car and leave it in the school parking lot. He said one of the reasons that the policy reads as does Hackettstown and Hunterdon Central's is that students are not permitted to go to their cars during the school day is to keep them away from a place where they might have secreted something like this. Mr. Perkins said that he didn't care if the board says that they don't care about all of that but from his point of view, being the author of the policy, he is saying "what can be put into the policy that will enhance the safety of the students in the building." He said that he wanted to hear from the administration as to the implementation of this policy. Mr. Perkins said he knew that during prom weekend and graduation time, there are security people in the parking lot and if the district had a policy that said that a vehicle could be inspected and the parent, the registered owner of the vehicle and the driver all sign off on that so they cannot argue they were not given notice, an

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importance concept under law in these cases, and alcohol or worse yet, a weapon is found in a vehicle, the district should be able to do something about it. Mr. Perkins said that was the only reason he expanded the policy to the point that he did. Mr. Manochio asked if the teacher and the students park in the same parking lot at the high school. Dr. Jakubowski said that they do. He said that teachers park in the cul-de-sac and they park adjacent to the gym and the attendance office. Dr. Jakubowski said that other teachers park in the large parking lot on North Third Street near Rabkin but students are also allowed to park in that lot. Mr. Manochio asked if students park on the streets surrounding the high school. Dr. Jakubowski said that no students are supposed to park on the street because there are parking restrictions on the street. He said that the people who live on Gruber Avenue park in front of their homes and supposedly they have decals from the Township. Mr. Manochio asked if the students who drive to school are required to have a parking decal at this time. Mr. Helmstetter said they did. Mr. Manochio asked what the present fee for this decal was. Dr. Jakubowski said he thought it was \$2. Mr. Manochio asked if it was something that the student carried with them. Mr. Helmstetter said that the permit is hung in the car. Mr. Perkins said that he has spoken at length with Mrs. Urcioli whose daughter and her friend were killed 6-1/2 years ago in an accident on Morris Avenue. He said that they drove through the high school parking lot the night of the accident and the security people were outside. Mr. Perkins said that Mr. Solla and Mr. Stewart saw the vehicle. He said that the young man that was driving the car was known to be irresponsible as a driver, speeding through the parking lot and in fact had an accident with a teacher in the parking lot and tried to blame the teacher for getting in his way as he was racing someone else on the parking lot. Mr. Perkins said that this is the type of behavior that this policy is designed to head off. He said that this young man was known to be an irresponsible driver and he was allowed to continue to park on school property and this policy would hopefully correct that situation. Mr. Helmstetter said that there was a lot of input from the board this evening on the student parking policy and Dr. Jakubowski does have some concerns on how the policy would be implemented. He suggested that the board hold off on the adoption of this policy. Mr. Perkins said he agreed but that he would like the proposed policy to be posted on the web page for comment by the public. Mr. Helmstetter asked Mr. Damato if this would be a problem. Mr. Damato said he did not think so and he would have it posted on the web site as a proposed policy. Mr. Helmstetter asked if anyone on the board had a problem doing this. The board concurred that this should be done. Mr. Ruhl said the only problem he had with the new policy was that the parking permit was "not transferable" because he has had a situation where his son, who is a student at the high school and drives to school, has gone out to his car and discovered that he has a flat tire

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and took another vehicle to school. He questioned whether because the other vehicle did not have a parking permit and he as the owner of vehicle could not get to the high school would the vehicle be towed or booted because the parking permit would not be transferable. Mr. Perkins said that both vehicles could be registered. He said that the policy in its present form is not written in stone. Mr. Perkins said he tried to write the policy from the viewpoint of an administration that was trying to save lives and protect students in the schools and what could be done within the boundaries of the law to do that. Mr. Manochio said he didn't think anyone disagreed but that clarification was required. Mr. Perkins said this was a legitimate response. Mr. Helmstetter asked the board if they agreed that this policy would be examined more closely and get more thoughts back to Mr. Perkins and that it would be posted on the website as a proposed policy and that Dr. Jakubowski would meet with Mr. Gibbons to get his input. Dr. Jakubowski said he knew that the board wanted to adopt this policy as soon as possible but he did not know if this was something that Mr. Gibbons should comment on or if it should wait until a new principal is named at the high school because the commitment will be from the person who will be there at the time to administer the policy. He said that he felt the district still needed to be practical and be a little flexible and he wanted to make sure that the policy would be administered and not just something that will totally be ignored because that would be counterproductive. Mr. Perkins said that he anticipated individuals to be at the regular meeting who would speak to the board regarding this policy. Mr. Abraham asked if it was possible or if it would be more practical not to have the policy implemented until September. Mr. Perkins said that "you'd better pray and that no body gets killed on prom weekend or over the summer." Mr. Abraham said it was his personal feeling that this policy would not prevent someone from being killed. Mr. Perkins said that he did and he didn't see any reason to wait because the school principal issue is not one that drives the policy of the board. He said that the school principal will get the policy as the board decides to do it and that goes for any policy and his job will be to implement the policies of the board. Mr. Helmstetter asked if any board member had any further comments that they should contact Mr. Perkins. Mrs. Axelrod said that if the policy is placed on the web site as a "proposed policy" how will parents or any other members of the community be able to comment on it. Mr. Perkins said that a response e-mail address would be provided. Dr. Jakubowski said that he wanted to make a comment only because he wanted it on the record. He said that Mr. Perkins kept bringing up the young man who was involved in the accident on Morris Avenue and that young man did many things which made him an irresponsible driver; however, the accident occurred in the evening and whether or not he was able to park on school property, he was 18 years old and people chose to get into the car with him. Dr. Jakubowski said that his problem with all of this is

Policy Committee

it constantly sounds like this board of education and this administration was directly responsible for what occurred that night and the truth of it is, the district was not responsible for it and whether or not he was allowed to park in the school parking lot or not that may have happened. He said that it was a terrible thing but he did not believe any member of the board of education or any administrator had anything to do with what happened that night. Dr. Jakubowski said he needed to say this because it was the second time Mr. Perkins referred to the young man and "being in our parking lot" and "security guards seeing him" that it almost indicts those two security guards and he was uncomfortable with it as a statement. Mr. Perkins said that the statement originally was not made by him but by a reporter from the Star Ledger.

Approval of Bills

Mr. Helmstetter stated that the bills would be approved at the regular meeting.

Unfinished Business

Dr. Jakubowski said that there will be an additional item on the agenda for the regular meeting under personnel which deals with the central office personnel and the post retirement accounts.

Dr. Jakubowski said that he had the opportunity to see both the Burnet Middle School show , *Annie, Jr.*, and the Kawameeh Middle School show, *Cinderella*, and both of them were absolutely outstanding. Dr. Jakubowski said that at the regular meeting he would push the high school show which is the last week end in March. Mr. Manochio asked if the shows were taped. Dr. Jakubowski said they were. Mr. Abraham congratulated Ms. Dowson and Ms. Ditri for their hard work; they did a tremendous job.

Dr. Jakubowski said that the district has posted for high school principal position and applications are being received. He said that the posting is completed on March 23rd. Dr. Jakubowski said that in the future the district will have to post for at least one elementary principal. He said that both positions will not be filled until after the board election. Dr. Jakubowski said he hoped to have a principal for the high school hired at the May board meeting.

New Business

Mr. Manochio asked if there have been any problems at athletic events in the district. Dr. Jakubowski said that with the new jobs in blue, the district did have an issue last week. He said the district was hosting a State girls' basketball game in the high school gym and Mr. Parsons informed him that no police officer wanted to work the game. Dr. Jakubowski said that he instructed all security

New Business

monitors at the high school to be present at the game and there were no issues. He said that the district has been lucky this year as the crowds for the wrestling regions were good this year and there were no issues. Dr. Jakubowski said that our district is centrally located and he believed that the NJSIAA would love to use the facilities even more for their contests. He said that the indoor sports are the toughest. Dr. Jakubowski said that there were some problems with younger teams who visited neighboring communities but the district's greatest issue with sports teams is transportation. He said because all of the district's buses are used to transport students to and from school, the sports teams are getting to games late. Mr. Manochio asked when the district hosts a sponsored activity at one of its buildings, do the sponsors of the activity pay for security. Dr. Jakubowski said that for the last event, the district could not get any outside "men in blue" for which the district would pay. He said that he was not sure if the other schools involved pay a fee to use the district's facilities. Dr. Jakubowski asked Ms. Dunn if the district pays for security when they use the district's facilities. Mr. Dunn said that there is a minimal amount paid. She said that the district pays for everything and the district does not make any money. Dr. Jakubowski said that the district does not factor into the expenses costs such as utilities, etc. He said that there are restrictions as to how many security people they will pay for. Mr. Magliacano said that the state sets the parameters for how games will be run. Mr. Helmstetter asked what would happen if the district said they would not host the game. Dr. Jakubowski stated that the district does not have to but there are things that the district does as part of the community. Mr. Ruhl asked if the district ever considered using County police officers for security. Mr. Magliacano stated that sometimes the district does use County police if there are no local police officers who want to work the events.

Comments from the Public

Mr. Titmus wanted to give the board a clarification as to the random drug testing policy since he was formerly the SAC coordinator at Union High School. He said that the high school never randomly drug tested anyone since 1996 when he began working at the school. Mr. Titmus said that the school followed "reasonable suspicion".

Motion for Executive Session

Moved by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Perkins, that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss personnel and student 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 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 and Mr. Helmstetter
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: None MOTION WAS CARRIED

THE BOARD RETURNED TO PUBLIC SESSION AT 9:05 P.M.

Personnel Committee:

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

APPROVE EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT – JAKUBOWSKI

That the board approve employment contract between Union Township Board of Education and Theodore Jakubowski for the period January 1, 2007 through June 30, 2010 in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

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

Motion to Adjourn:

There being no further business before the board, it was moved by Mr. Manochio, seconded by Mr. Abraham that the meeting be adjourned at 9:10 p.m. All present voting yes.

Respectfully submitted

JAMES J. DAMATO
BOARD SECRETARY

