

UNION BOARD OF EDUCATION
Worksession – May 9, 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), Mr. Anthony Manochio, Mrs. Versie McNeil, Mr. Francis Perkins and Mrs. Judy Salazar

ABSENT AT ROLL CALL: Mrs. Linda Gaglione & Mr. Steve Ruhl

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

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 Organization Meeting and Executive Session of April 25, 2006 for formal action at next week's meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS:

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

EDUCATION/STUDENT DISCIPLINE:

Mrs. Axelrod presented the Education/Student Discipline Agenda. She said that the committee met prior to the worksession to discuss education/student discipline matters.

Mrs. Axelrod said that Mrs. McNeil would like to know the process for allowing students to remain in the district, who are not domiciled in Union. Dr. Jakubowski explained, by saying, that the parent writes a letter requesting their child to stay in the district; if the child has been in the district since the beginning of ninth grade or is in a graduating class (fourth, fifth, eighth or twelfth grades), then he gives them the courtesy of staying in the district. Dr. Jakubowski said that he always notifies the building principal to assure that there is not a discipline problem with the child. If there is a problem, the privilege is not granted. He also said that if the family is not honest about moving and tries to keep the child in the district after moving out of town than courtesy is not given. Mrs. McNeil asked if tuition is required. Dr. Jakubowski replied no, adding that the student is given a transfer card on the last day of school.

Mrs. Axelrod said that Mrs. Lombardi provided a list of the revised curriculum guides.

Mrs. Axelrod said that the state test results for high school students, as well as, grades five, six and seven should be received in June.

FISCAL AND PLANNING:

Mr. Manochio presented the Fiscal and Planning Agenda.

Mr. Damato stated that the scholarship funds, as referred to in resolution F-10, are held in trust by the board of education. Scholarships from organizations are sent directly to the Union High School Booster Associations.

Mr. Helmstetter asked if the district gets bids from other companies, as referred to in resolution F-9 (Student and Athletic Accident Insurance Coverage for 2006-07 school year from Bollinger Insurance). Mr. Damato stated that Bollinger Insurance is a non-bid contract and that the broker does receive quotes from other companies.

OPERATIONS:

Mr. Abraham presented the Operations Agenda.

Mr. Helmstetter asked if there were any questions or concerns. None were noted.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

Mr. Manochio presented the Personnel Committee. He said that Personnel Committee met with Dr. Jakubowski to discuss personnel matters.

Dr. Jakubowski stated that although Karen Moreno-Gold is requesting child rearing leave, as referred to in resolution P-4, she will be paid a stipend for working after school with the high school band. Dr. Jakubowski said that Ms. Moreno is an important part of the high school band.

Mrs. McNeil asked if the positions of teachers who are resigning would be replaced. Dr. Jakubowski said that the math position at Burnet Middle School has already been filled because the teacher has been on extended leave; the industrial arts-general shop teacher at Burnet Middle School will be replaced by a teacher in the district, because a industrial arts teacher who left the district is returning; the social studies teacher at Union High School may be consolidated; the social worker position will be replaced.

Dr. Jakubowski said that there would be additional teacher resignation letters by next week. He said that each year positions are terminated for cause; adding that as a courtesy he allows the person to resign from the position.

DISCUSSION ITEM

1. Memorandum of Agreement between Board of Education and Union Township Association of School Administrators (UTASA). Dr. Jakubowski briefly discussed the memorandum in accordance with the information appended to these minutes. Dr. Jakubowski said that the district saves money because the money goes into a post retirement account. Administrators accumulated sick days are capped at 325 days at \$100 per day. Dr. Jakubowski noted that all members must join a tax shelter annuity in order to be paid. He said that it is the responsibility of the person leaving the district to submit a letter of resignation to

the board of education. Dr. Jakubowski said that a resolution for the memorandum of agreement between Union Township Association of School Administrators and The Township of Union Board of Education would be on the agenda next week for formal action.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Dr. Jakubowski said that the district still participates in the county teacher's recognition breakfast at L'Affaire. He said the names of teachers being honored would be part of his superintendent's report.

Dr. Jakubowski said that in two weeks there is a scholar's breakfast, which honors the valedictorian and the salutatorian.

Dr. Jakubowski said that last night was the National Honor Society induction at Union High School. He said Mr. Fortunato spoke about this year's graduating class and the colleges some of the honor students would be attending. Dr. Jakubowski complimented student council president, Lauren Sanchez on the speech she gave at the induction. He said Lauren received a full academic scholarship to Ramapo College.

Dr. Jakubowski discussed some of the topics of "Chalk Talks" that are being aired.

Mrs. Lombardi reminded everyone that the Education Foundation reception is next Thursday at Schering Plough. She said that the foundation has awarded over \$13,000.00 in grants to the district this year; adding it is an honor to receive them.

OLD BUSINESS:

Dr. Jakubowski said that the first round of interviews for the position of Assistant Superintendent is completed. He said the committee (Ms. Dunn, Ms. Lombardi, Ms. French and himself) will meet with the four finalists and a decision should be made by the end of the month. Dr. Jakubowski said that he would like the new Assistant Superintendent to be on board before the technology person is hired.

Mr. Perkins said it is the intention of the policy committee to continue to review and update policies. With regard to the trespassing policy, Mr. Perkins said that the policy should be ready for discussion and adoption in June. He said the ultimate intention is to establish a policy so that unauthorized personnel will be prohibited on school grounds, and in school buildings when the facility is limited to certain time periods. Mr. Perkins said that that the purpose of the policy is that a person can be subject to criminal arrest and punishment if they disobey the rules.

Mr. Perkins said the second issue to be discussed is child nutrition. He said he has had several discussions with Linda Ionta regarding nutrition and fitness for students. Ms. Lombardi said that the high school has implemented a teen fitness and healthy life styles program. She said she is waiting for the outcome of the program and hopefully a proposal to continue the program next year.

Mr. Perkins said that another issue to be addressed is the protection of food coming into the schools.

Mr. Perkins said that people consistently use the high school track to walk. He said that there should be some control of who uses the track, as well as, time limits for use.

Mr. Manochio asked for an update on the parking area next to Cook Drive. Mr. Damato said that as far as he knows, the project was approved. He said he is waiting for a date from the township for a pre-construction meeting with the town engineer.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ms Ciampi asked if the soda machines in the schools could be replaced with something healthy. Mr. Perkins said that he is not sure what will be done, but the district will do what is required.

Ms. Ciampi asked what changes would be made regarding nutrition in schools. Ms. Dunn said that the policy requires that items that contain a certain amount of sugar could not be sold on school premises during the school day. She also said that some drinks had to be changed and sized down.

Mr. Perkins said that he has had numerous conversations with Ms. Ionta about nutrition and fitness. He said family education is a big part of making good nutrition and fitness successful.

Ms. Ciampi asked if the school buildings in the district are asbestos free. Dr. Jakubowski said that he doubts if every building in the district is asbestos free. He said the room we are sitting in right now probably has asbestos in the ceiling tiles. Dr. Jakubowski said as far as lead free buildings, testing is done that is required. He said Hannah Caldwell was tested for water and areas in the school and the test was fine.

Ms. Ciampi said that the schools' asbestos books are supposed to be available to the public. She said that every time she asks for the books she is told that they are not available. Dr. Jakubowski said that he would talk to Mr. Magliacano regarding this matter.

Ms. Loessel said that the soda machines at the high school were replaced with water. She suggested serving small bottles of water instead of milk during lunch to elementary children. Ms. Dunn said that dairy is part of the school menu.

Mr. Manochio said the problem with children obesity starts in the home.

Ms. Loessel said that two years ago the school district was not in compliance with the asbestos testing. She asked for an update. Dr. Jakubowski said he believes that everything is in compliance, adding, that there has not been any issues for over two years. Mr. Damato said that there was a reinspection. Ms. Loessel said that she would review the reinspection report.

Ms. Loessel said that her husband sent a letter regarding a transfer to each board member; she said this matter is a liability to the district. Mr. Helmstetter said that the board did receive the letter and the issue was addressed. Ms. Loessel said for the record, there was an incident, it was resolved, and to put a problem back is inexcusable. Mr. Helmstetter said the issue was addressed accordingly.

Mr. Donnarumma said he was happy to see the bank interest rates rising, as referred to in resolution F-6.

MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 7:45 p.m. it was moved by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Manochio that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss personnel and potential litigation matters without the presence of the public in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 10:4-2b. The Board will disclose the discussion conducted during the executive 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, Mr. Helmstetter, Mr. Manochio,
Mrs. McNeil, Mr. Perkins and Mrs. Salazar

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION WAS CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES J. DAMATO
BOARD SECRETARY