

TO ALL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS:

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Township of Union will be held on Tuesday, October 17, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at Union High School, Union, New Jersey 07083

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Township of Union was held at Union High School on Tuesday, October 17, 2006 at 7 p.m. pursuant to notice sent to each member.

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

ABSENT AT ROLL CALL: Mr. Anthony Manochio and Mr. Francis Perkins

Mr. Abraham led the board members and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was observed in memory of a first grade student at Hannah Caldwell who was tragically killed last week.

The secretary read the statement required under the "Open Public Meeting Act", a copy of which is on file in the office of the secretary.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Ruhl that the minutes of the worksession of September 12, 2006 be approved:

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

Moved by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Ruhl that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 19, 2006 and the Executive Session of September 19, 2006 be approved:

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

COMMUNICATIONS

REQUEST FOR MATERNITY, FAMILY AND EXTENDED UNPAID CHILD REARING LEAVE – NELSON

Lori A. Nelson, teacher at Hannah Caldwell School, submitted a letter dated September 15, 2006, requesting maternity, family and extended unpaid child rearing leave for the period October 14th through the end of the 2006-2007 school year.

REQUEST FOR EXTENDED UNPAID CHILD REARING LEAVE – LEWANDOWSKI

Kelly Lewandowski, physical education teacher at Union High School, submitted a letter dated September 25, 2006, requesting extended unpaid family leave for the 2006-2007 school year.

REQUEST FOR MATERNITY AND FAMILY LEAVE – WEBER

Patti Weber, teacher at Franklin School, submitted a letter dated September 25, 2006, requesting maternity and family leave for the period November 1st, 2006 through April 2, 2007.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION (RETIREMENT) – JERANEK

Kathleen Jeranek, Elementary Language Arts and Social Studies Specialist, submitted a letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective February 1, 2007.

MR. PERKINS ENTERED THE MEETING AT 7:10 P.M.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Jakubowski gave his Superintendent's Report a copy of which is appended to these minutes. Also included in this report was the Violence and Vandalism Report for the 2005-2006 school year.

PUBLIC HEARING ON VANDALISM AND VIOLENCE REPORT

Mr. Helmstetter asked the audience if anyone had any questions regarding the report that Dr. Jakubowski had just presented. Ms. Ciampi said that a few months ago she had reported at a board meeting that the front door of the high school is easy access into the school and the security is minimal. She also mentioned that she had shared the fact that a truck was parked in front of the high school and she wanted to know what action has been taken on these issues. Dr. Jakubowski said that after Ms. Ciampi had brought these matters to his attention, he talked to Mr. Fortunato and he was advised that there is someone sitting at a desk at the front door at the high school. He said that this person is called a "receptionist" but this person is stationed at the door and everyone who enters the building is supposed to "sign in". Dr. Jakubowski said that he has spoken to Mr. Fortunato and the other administrators in the building to make sure that the "receptionist" is there when he is supposed to be there and if for some reason he is not there, there is someone at the desk in his place. He said that he would again discuss this matter with Mr. Fortunato but he said that anytime he goes into the high

PUBLIC HEARING ON VANDALISM AND VIOLENCE REPORT

school, there is someone sitting at the front desk when he walks in. Ms. Ciampi said that she hoped the district would get to the point where a person cannot get into the school unless they are buzzed in. She said anyone can easily get into the school and when she walks up to the desk, the "receptionist" just lets people go in; she said she has never had to sign in. Ms. Ciampi said that this matter must be addressed by the board and the fact that the truck was parked in front of the building really disturbed her because of the situations that are going on around the world today. Dr. Jakubowski said that because the main lobby at the high school is so large; from there you can go in so many directions and the truth of it is someone being buzzed into that building, if they immediately walk past the office and went down one of the corridors, they could get lost. He said that a person sitting in the lobby who could direct visitors is a more appropriate way of handling visitors at the high school. Dr. Jakubowski said that this was a recommendation made by the group who gave the district its first safety suggestions when the process was started four or five years ago. He said that he would again speak with Mr. Fortunato to make sure that the individual assigned to sit at the front desk is doing what he is supposed to be doing. Ms. Ciampi stated that it has always been a concern that someone will just enter the school.

Mr. Shanahan, the president of the Union Township Education Association wanted to comment on Dr. Jakubowski's remarks on the safety at Union High School. He believed that the opening of school this year was one of the smoothest that he has seen in a number of things based on a few things. Mr. Shanahan said that it is what the administration has instilled in the faculty and staff and it is not a matter of an individual in the lobby, but it is a matter of teachers and security people in the hallway and a combination of other things. He said that it would be impossible to move 2400 people, nine times a day, and not expect a few little pushes and shoves. Dr. Jakubowski said that Mr. Fortunato informed him yesterday that the enrollment at the high school is fast approaching 2600. Mr. Shanahan said that he wanted everyone to understand that he has been in the district for 34 years, his daughter is a junior at the high school and his wife is a teacher at the high school and there is never a day that goes by that they do not feel safe there. He said that there is always room for improvement but he thought that every building had a different set of needs. Mr. Shanahan said that he wanted the public to know that when anyone comes into the high school, they will be met by either security, a faculty member or the front desk receptionist, sooner or later. He felt that the staff at the high school did a good job.

Mr. Helmstetter stated that in conjunction with this discussion, he felt the need for the board to reestablish its Safety Committee. He said that he would make an announcement regarding this committee at the November meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING ON VANDALISM AND VIOLENCE REPORT

Dr. Jakubowski said that he wanted to mention that there were signs being put on all board properties in terms of loitering. He said that the board recently passed a trespassing policy and this now gives the police more substance when groups are congregating on a playground, after dusk. Dr. Jakubowski said that the district has made it very clear by posting these signs that indicates what hours persons are allowed on the premises, what is allowed to be done on the playground and this action was taken in conjunction with the police department so that they have a little more substance when the police go to a playground after a particular hour and see persons congregating there. He said that the school buses are another place where there are as many incidences of violence as in the school buildings. Dr. Jakubowski said that there are forty students confined on a school bus and especially at the middle school level, disputes break out. He said that just today, Mr. Tatum went to Kawameeh to speak to a number of bus students, because the district is not happy with their behavior on the school bus. Dr. Jakubowski said that the students were reminded that riding the school bus was a privilege and if the students could not behave, their mother or father would have to get them to school in the morning and back home at the end of the day.

Mr. Abraham read a formal resolution acknowledging School Bus Safety Week for the week of October 15 through 21, 2006. (A copy of this resolution is attached to these minutes).

Mr. Perkins said it was his understanding that most of the schools, if not all of them, have a sign at the entrance way that reads, "All visitors must report to the principal's office". He said that whether or not an individual who comes on to the property of the school or enters the school, is stopped by someone or is required to get a pass, the obligation to stop at the main office still remains upon the person coming to the school and as a legal matter, the person who ignores that sign, notwithstanding that someone did not stop that person, becomes a trespasser. Mr. Perkins said that the district has had this situation in the past where people have said that they had no difficulty getting into the school but those individuals who do that are trespassers subject to arrest. He said that it was the obligation of the visitor as well as the school district to make sure that an individual stops and gets an appropriate pass before traversing the hallways of a particular school building.

Dr. Jakubowski said that Mrs. Axelrod gave him an article that he started to read regarding a school district in Rome, New York entitled "*A Very Violent School or Just Honest?*" He said that over the years, this district has completed a violence and vandalism report and people have commented that there are still 78 fights or 117 suspensions but he said that he has looked at neighboring communities and they report three fights, no violent acts, etc. Dr. Jakubowski said

PUBLIC HEARING ON VANDALISM AND VIOLENCE REPORT

that the only way he could respond to this is he would assure the board and the public that when a report comes into his office, his secretary, Mrs. Stollar, immediately enters the information into the computer, sometimes even before he has had a chance to see it. He said that he reports what happens in this district. Dr. Jakubowski wished that there were no violent acts and he did not believe that neighboring communities that are larger than Union only have two violent acts in a school year. Dr. Jakubowski did not believe that there was a school district in Union County where there is not at least one fight over the course of the school year between two students who for one reason or another lose control on a particular day. He said that he could not speak for any other district. Dr. Jakubowski said that he reports all violent and vandalistic acts because that is what he was told to do. He said that he could not speak for any other school district in Union County or in New Jersey but he knew that over the past six years, he has watched the number of violent acts decrease significantly. Dr. Jakubowski thought that this was caused by the no nonsense approach that is taken by the schools. He said that the district has sent students to the alternative program which he spoke about in his report for 45 days where they are aided in dealing with conflict resolution, anger management, etc. Dr. Jakubowski said that he was very comfortable in presenting his report to the public.

Mrs. Gaglione said that security is high on her list of priorities and she was glad that there was a decrease in violent acts in the district; however, in order to maintain security, she believed it was not just the "open door" in the front of the school that needs to be observed, but throughout all of the school buildings in the township. She also asked that the board observe a moment of silence, for the children who were lost in Colorado and the Amish children that were taken early from their school system.

Mr. Helmstetter asked if there was any further comment or discussion on the Violence and Vandalism Report and hearing none, he closed the public hearing on this matter.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON RESOLUTIONS ON THE AGENDA

Mr. Donnarumma asked about item (f) listed on resolution F-7 and he wanted to know where the marching band students were going on their trip. Mr. Helmstetter asked Ms. Dunn if she had any additional information on this item. Ms. Dunn said that the amount listed was just an estimate and she did not have the details at this time. Ms. Dunn did state that the monies referred to in this resolution do not flow from the Board of Education general fund, but they flow from the Student Activities Account and this money is raised by the student body. Mr.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON RESOLUTIONS ON THE AGENDA

Donnarumma asked about the refinance referred to in resolution F-10. Mr. Helmstetter said that the district will be able to obtain a lower interest rate on the bond funds and there will be a savings of approximately \$800,000 over the life of the bond. Mr. Donnarumma said that resolution P-12 approves a reading specialist to provide reading support services for special education teachers. He wanted to know if this individual would be going into classrooms to advise teachers how to conduct their classes. Dr. Jakubowski said that there are certain students who need a particular approach in learning to read and there are different approaches available. He said that the district's special education teachers are not necessarily trained in some of the specific reading programs that would help assist a student. Dr. Jakubowski said that the district is trying to find programs that best meet the needs of a particular student, it is sometimes necessary for the district to get an outside person who is qualified to assist teachers. He said that the particular individual listed in this resolution as certificates in more than one area and certainly can assist students and special education teachers in a variety of ways to help implement a reading program that students need. Dr. Jakubowski said that the fee the district is paying the reading specialist would equal what a first year teacher's salary minus health benefits and he believed the fee was reasonable for the service being provided. Mr. Donnarumma said he believed Dr. Jakubowski was correct about some district's not reporting all violent acts because he also clipped an article out of the paper and gave it to Mr. Tatum. He said that the article told about a district that did not report all of its violent acts and was currently under investigation for not reporting the acts.

Mrs. Lipstein commented on operations committee resolution O-3. She said that she represented the Township of Union Education Foundation and she was happy to be at the meeting with positive news. Mrs. Lipstein said that this resolution represents a grant which the Foundation has given to the Social Studies Department at Union High School of over \$7,000 for equipment which includes three workstations and will help the Social Studies Department connect the students in Union High School with students throughout the world. She said that the Education Foundation is a non profit charitable organization which was started in 2001; it gave its first grants in 2002 and has given over \$43,000 in grants to the district in the form of 35 grants. Mrs. Lipstein thought that the Foundation was one of the most uniting things in the district because the Superintendent, board members, administrators, teachers, parents and businesses in the community have supported the Foundation over the years. She asked that the community continue its support. Mrs. Lipstein said that information regarding the Education Foundation can be found on Channel 34 and the district's website. She said that the Foundation is currently selling tickets to the Menlo Park Evening of Giving on November 19th and information regarding this fundraiser is on the website.

EDUCATION/STUDENT DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE:

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

E-1. APPROVE LIST OF STUDENTS REMOVED FROM THE ROLLS

That approval be given to approve the list of students removed from the rolls who are not domiciled in this school district [four (4) for the period September 1 through September 30, 2006; for a total of six (6) students for the 2006-2007 school year] in accordance with the information appended to the nonpublic portion of these minutes.

E-2. AMEND 2006-2007 OUT OF DISTRICT SENT AND RECEIVED ATYPICAL PLACEMENT AND TUITION LISTS

That the Board amend the 2006-2007 out-of-district sent and received atypical student placement and tuition lists will be approved in accordance with the information appended to the nonpublic portion of these minutes.

E-3. ACCEPT VANDALISM AND VIOLENCE REPORT FOR THE 2005-2006 SCHOOL YEAR

That the board accept the Vandalism and Violence Report for the 2005-2006 school year in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

E-4. ACCEPT 2006 QUALITY ASSURANCE ANNUAL REPORT (QAAR)

That the Board accept the 2006 Quality Assurance Annual Report (QAAR) and that same be sent to the County Superintendent of Schools for approval.

E-5. APPROVE SPECIAL EDUCATION TUITION CONTRACT AGREEMENT FOR 2006-2007 SCHOOL YEAR WITH UNION COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION- UNION COUNTY SPECIAL NEEDS CARRERS ACADEMY

That the Board approve Special Education Tuition Contract Agreement with Union County Educational Services Commission for Union County Special Needs Careers Academy for the 2006-2007 school year in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

E-6. DESIGNATE OCTOBER 16-20, 2006 – SCHOOL VIOLENCE AWARENESS WEEK

That the board designate the week of October 16th through October 20th, 2006 as School Violence Awareness Week.

E-7. APPROVE NONPUBLIC SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE PROGRAM AGREEMENT – UNION COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION

That the board approve Nonpublic School Technology Initiative Program Agreement with Union County Educational Services Commission in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

DISCUSSION

None

EDUCATION/STUDENT DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE:

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

FISCAL AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

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

F-1. ACCEPT TREASURER’S REPORT

That the Treasurer’s Report dated September 30th, 2006 be accepted.

F-2. ACCEPT SECRETARY’S REPORT

That the Secretary’s Report dated September 30th, 2006 be accepted.

F-3. CERTIFY TREASURER’S AND SECRETARY’S REPORTS

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13(d), I certify that as of September 30th, 2006 no budgetary line item account has obligations and payments (contractual orders) which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the district board of education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8 and 18:22-8.1.

JAMES J. DAMATO

DATED

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13(e), we certify that as of September 30th 2006 after review of the secretary’s monthly financial report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials that to the best of our knowledge no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13(b) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district’s financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year. This certification is solely based on the information provided by the School Business Administrator and Board Secretary and is assumed by the board to be correct.

F-4. APPROVE LINE ITEM TRANSFERS

That the Board approve line item transfers in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

FISCAL AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

F-5. CONCUR WITH INVESTMENTS

That the Board concur with the investments made by the Business Administrator as follows

Mature Date	Purchase Date	Number of Days	Amount	Invest. Held by	Home A/C Account	Interest Rate	Estimated Income
10/17/06	09/19/06	28	200,000	Commerce Bank	Chase MIC/CAST	5.33%	829.11
10/17/06	09/19/06	28	900,000	Commerce Bank	UCNB Café	5.33%	3,731.00
10/17/06	09/19/06	28	1,300,000	Commerce Bank	UCNB CAP Reserve	5.33%	5,389.22
10/17/06	09/19/06	28	22,000,000	Commerce Bank	UCNB OP AC	5.33%	91,202.22
10/17/06	09/19/06	28	4,300,000	Commerce Bank	UCNB Jan03 Bond	5.33%	17,825.89
10/17/06	09/19/06	28	1,000,000	Commerce Bank	Unity BankSUI	5.33%	4,145.56

F-6. APPROVE FOLLOWING CONTRACTS AND/OR PURCHASE ORDERS PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF *N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5* and *18A:18A-10(a)*

That the Board approve the following contracts and/or purchase orders pursuant to the requirements of *N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5* and *18A:18A-10(a)* and in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

F-7. APPROVE FOLLOWING LIST OF CONTRACTS AND/OR PURCHASES PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF *N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5(21)*

That the Board approve following list of contracts and/or purchases pursuant to the requirements of *N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5(21)*: (a) Jekyl & Hyde Club – not to exceed \$3,000 – DECA field trip – Union High School; (b) Gertrude Hawk – not to exceed \$3,000 – Key Club fundraiser – Union High School; (c) Here's the Story – not to exceed \$3,000 – Books English Club – Union High School; (d) Scholastic Book Fairs- \$3,436.22 – book fair – Kawameeh Middle School; (e) Scholastic Classroom Magazines - \$2,200 – classroom magazines- Connecticut Farms School; (f) Music Festivals – not to exceed \$100,000 – Marchina Band/Chorus Trip – Union High School (THE SHADED ITEM WAS PULLED FROM THE AGENDA FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION BY THE BOARD).

F-8. ACCEPT DONATION FROM RUTGERS UNIVERSITY OF NJ – WET FESTIVAL – HANNAH CALDWELL SCHOOL

That the Board accept donation from Rutgers University of NJ for partial payment of grant in the amount of \$320 for the Wet Festival at Hannah Caldwell Elementary School in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

F-9. APPROVE DISTRICTWIDE TRAVEL AND RELATED EXPENSES PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF *N.J.A.C. 6A:23B* and Board Policy File Codes 4133, 4440 and 9250

That the Board approve districtwide travel and related expenses pursuant to the requirements of *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.

FISCAL AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

F-10. APPROVE FORMAL RESOLUTION FOR REFINANCE OF 2003 BOND FUNDS

That the Board approve formal resolution for the refinance of 2003 Bond funds in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

DISCUSSION:

Dr. Jakubowski asked that item (f) in resolution F-7 be pulled from the agenda this evening as he believed a good portion of the amount stated would be going toward a trip that the marching band/chorus go on every spring although he did not have any specific back up information at this time. He asked the board not to vote on this item tonight because the trip that this group was planning to go on for their competition this year is out of the continental United States and he recalled a discussion that the board had over the summer about whether or not, with insurance issues, etc., the district would allow groups of students to go on trips out of the country. Dr. Jakubowski said that he has not approved that particular trip and he stated that he was informed by the Board Secretary that once the resolution goes through, the group would have the ability, through the student activity account, to start paying out for the trip. He said that he did not want the group to start paying for a trip that the board may say they will not allow.

Moved by Mrs. Gaglione, seconded by Mr. Ruhl that resolutions F-1 through F-6, resolution F-7 (a)(b)(c)(d)(e) and resolutions F-8 through F-10 be adopted

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

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

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

O-1. APPROVE ADVERTISEMENT FOR DISPOSAL OF EQUIPMENT WHICH IS DEEMED NO LONGER SERVICEABLE

That the board approve advertisement for disposal of the following equipment which is deemed no longer serviceable: (a) Macintosh Computer #03130 located at Franklin School; (b) HP Deskjet 1000C printer Tag 14227, serial # SG7AL130H9; (c) 1989 Chevy C30, VIN #1GBGG35KXK7170659 (minimum bid \$100); (d) 1990 Dodge 350 Ram, VIN #2B5WB31Z2LK781599 (minimum bid \$100); (e) International Model F-Cub Trailer with York Rake Attachment, Serial #722888-Administration Building Maintenance Department (minimum bid \$100).

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

O-2. DECREASE BID AWARD FOR INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION SUPPLIES – GOLDIE INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY CO.

That the board approve decrease of bid award to Goldie Industrial Supply Co. for industrial education supplies for the 2006-2007 school year from \$1,199.25 to \$562.25 in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

O-3. ACCEPT DONATION OF COMPUTER EQUIPMENT – TOWNSHIP OF UNION EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

That the board accept donation of Dell Computer equipment in connection with macro grant presented by the Township of Union Education Foundation to Jeff Bailin, Social Studies Department Supervisor at Union High School in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

O-4. APPROVE DISCARD OF TEXTBOOKS

That the board approve discard of textbooks in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

O-5. AMEND PROPOSAL FOR RENEWAL OF CONTRACT FOR 2006-2007 SCHOOL YEAR – ARAMARK

That the board amend proposal for the renewal of the board's contract with ARAMARK and school lunch prices for the 2006-2007 school year based on the following which was adopted by the board at its regular meeting on June 20, 2006. The Board of Education finds that the ARAMARK services are being performed in an effective and efficient manner. The price increase does not exceed the Index Rate and the other terms and conditions of the Contract shall remain substantially the same. This information is in accordance with the information appended to these minutes: (1) One hundred seventy-seven (177) service days for all schools and staff; (2) No decrease in average enrollment for the 2006-2007 school year; (3) Current rates for State and Federal cash reimbursements; (4) Continued availability of government food commodities at the same quantity, quality and variety as for 2006-2007; (5) Approval of recommended price changes, revised price list for the 2006-2007 school year is attached. A \$.05 increase in paid Type "A" lunches at all schools; (6) Increased in food costs average 4% due to current market trends, increase in dairy products and decreased availability of government commodities rebate and processing programs; (7) Increase of 4% (average) in payroll cost to keep in step with the competitive labor market and the local prevailing wage scales in the food service industry; (8) To adjust the allowance for ARAMARK's general administrative costs to \$.04610 per meal served, and a management fee of \$.0345 per meal served; (9) To recommend to the Board of Education of the Township of Union School District to reappoint ARAMARK for the food service management for the 2006-2007 school year as permitted by law; and (10) A guaranteed return of \$50,226 as per section 16F.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

O-6. APPROVE USE OF BURNET MIDDLE SCHOOL – PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL OF UNION

That the Board approve the use of Burnet Middle School by Portuguese Language School of Union for the 2006-2007 school year at the rental rate and terms appended to these minutes.

O-7. DESIGNATE OCTOBER 15 -21, 2006 – SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WEEK

That the board designate the week of October 15th through October 21st 2006 as School Bus Safety Week.

DISCUSSION:

None

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 COMMITTEE:

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

P-1. APPROVE PERSONNEL ACTIONS

That personnel actions be approved in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

P-2. AMEND SUBSTITUTE LISTS

That the board amend list of Substitute/Home Instruction List, Substitute Custodians, Substitute Cafeteria/Playground Assistants, Classroom Assistants and Secretaries for the 2006-2007 school year in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

P-3. APPROVE LIST OF 2006-2007 SCHOOL YEAR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM ASSIGNMENTS AND PRO-RATED SALARIES

That the board approve list of 2006-2007 school year Academic Achievement Program Assignments and Pro-rated Salaries in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

P-4. APPROVE MATERNITY, FAMILY AND EXTENDED UNPAID CHILD REARING LEAVE – NELSON

That the board approve maternity, family and extended unpaid child rearing leave for Lori A. Nelson, teacher at Hannah Caldwell School, for the period October 14th, 2006 through the end of the 2006-2007 school year.

P-5. APPROVE EXTENDED UNPAID FAMILY LEAVE – LEWANDOWSKI

That the board approve extended unpaid family leave to Kelly Lewandowski, physical education teacher at Union High School, for the 2006-2007 school year.

P-6. APPROVE MATERNITY AND FAMILY LEAVE – WEBER

That the board approve maternity and family leave for Patti Weber, teacher at Franklin School, for the period October 23, 2006 through April 2nd 2007.

P-7. ACCEPT LETTER OF RESIGNATION (RETIREMENT) – JERANEK

That the board accept letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement from Kathleen Jeranek, Elementary Language Arts and Social Studies Specialist, effective February 1, 2007.

P-8. APPROVE PAYMENT FOR PREPARATION FOR PRESENTING/FACILITATING AT SEPTEMBER 6, 2006 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY – PFEIFFER

That the board approve payment to Andrew Pfeiffer for preparation for presenting/facilitating at the September 6th, 2006 Professional Development Day at a per person compensation rate of \$40 per hour for two hours not to exceed \$80.

P-9. APPROVE PAYMENT TO STAFF FOR PREPARATION FOR PRESENTING/FACILITATING AT NOVEMBER 7TH 2006 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

That the board approve payment to staff members for preparation for presenting/facilitating at the November 7th, 2006 Professional Development Day at a per person compensation rate of \$40 per hour not to exceed ten (10) hours or \$400 in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

P-10. APPROVE CURRICULUM WRITING TEAMS

That the board approve curriculum writing teams at a per person compensation rate of \$20 per hour not to exceed 15 hours or \$300:

Math – Grade 1

Sue Doyle
Angela Taylor

Math – Grade 6

Jill Vecchione
Michelle Barsi

Math – Grade 7

Liz Walter
Jillian Gaglione

Health – Grade 5

George Chapla
Greg Fry
Dennis Reinhard

Health – Grade 6

Lisa Devereaux
Phyllis LaPelusa
Sue Lorenzo

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

P-11. AMEND LIST OF SALARY CLASS CHANGES FOR 2006-2007 SCHOOL YEAR

That the board amend list of salary class changes for the 2006-2007 school in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

P-12. APPROVE READING SPECIALIST – CANNON

That the board approve Jona Cannon, Reading Specialist, to provide reading support services for special education teachers for the period October 23, 2006 to May 31, 2007 at a rate of \$125 per hour not to exceed 360 hours or \$45,000.

P-13. APPROVE LIST OF STAFF WHOSE SALARIES ARE FUNDED IN FULL OR IN PART THROUGH THE DISTRICT'S 2006-2007 HEAD START GRANT

That the board approve list of staff members whose salaries are funded in full or in part through the district's 2006-2007 Head Start grant in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

P-14. APPROVE WELLNESS MANAGEMENT SERVICES OF TRINITAS HOSPITAL

That the board approve Wellness Management Services of Trinitas Hospital, a student guidance-training program to improve the behavior and academic success for students at Central-5/Jefferson School and Burnet Middle School for the period September 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007 in an amount not to exceed \$62,000.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Tatum stated that the Wellness Management Services program as it was designed was to bring about commonality in the district in terms of the expected behavior and the approaches that the staff and all faculty members use. He said that he was happy to see that the program not only piloted last year at Central-5 School (he saw a number of reductions in the number of referrals to the office) but also that it has now expanded to Burnet Middle School. Mr. Tatum said that this program is maintained by Dr. Goddard through Trinitas Hospital and basically, he has been told by the vice principal at Burnet Middle School that the faculty there has embraced the program and they are looking forward to the continued success of the program. He said that he students that are at Burnet at this time have been trained in the strategies that the program maintains. Mr. Tatum thought that this was a viable program and he felt that as the program is continued to be monitored, may be a model that will serve the district quite well.

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

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Moved by Mrs. Gaglione, seconded by Mr. Ruhl that the Board concur with the bills listed in the permanent bound register appended to these minutes and be ordered for payment.

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

Dr. Jakubowski said that in September a number of parents attended the worksession voicing their concern regarding class rank, grade point average – weighted and unweighted, etc. He said that since then he has met with a group from the Union High School PTA Executive Board to discuss the issue. Dr. Jakubowski said that he realized that there are a lot of questions that really need to be answered if any change in procedure is going to be implemented. He said that Mr. Fortunato has spent a considerable amount of time last year trying to resolve several issues in making sure that all students were on a “firm playing field”. Dr. Jakubowski said that Mr. Fortunato made everyone aware of the fact that there are things that occasionally need to be reviewed. He said that he has gotten a considerable amount of information on what colleges look for through the guidance department at the high school. Dr. Jakubowski said that he is not ready at this time to make a firm recommendation to the board about what the district should do with regard to a weighted and unweighted GPA. He said that presently each transcript that goes out to a college from the guidance department contains the GPA (both weighted and unweighted) and next to the GPA is the conversion in terms of rank would be (both weighted and unweighted). Dr. Jakubowski said that under the new suggestion by Mr. Fortunato, the district would continue to put both the weighted and unweighted GPA but the only rank that would be listed would be the unweighted rank. He said that Mr. Fortunato believed that this would give more individuals the opportunity to have the number one ranking in a class. Dr. Jakubowski said that it was decided to make any change right now for students who are currently in Union High School would not be in the best interest of all the students and it was decided that the district will be using the procedures listed in the 2005-2006 handbook and everything will remain as it was. He said that any changes that will be made for the district will affect the current eighth graders. Dr. Jakubowski stated that Mr. Fortunato would be informing all students presently at the high school of this decision. He said that there are only about four districts in Union County that still include rank on their transcripts to colleges. Dr. Jakubowski said that it is necessary for students to have a “rank” even if unofficial, because there are certain things a rank is used for. He said that most schools still honor a valedictorian and that will continue to be done with a weighted rank. Dr. Jakubowski stated that no changes will be made for this school year and he stated

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

that if any modification or changes will be made for next year, they will be in place by the spring of 2007 so that all eighth graders, before they enter Union High School will be aware of under what parameters they are operating.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Dunn thanked the board for approving the resolution for School Bus Safety Week. She said that the transportation department works very hard to assure bus safety by being certified in CPR and taking defensive driving and other courses. Ms. Dunn stated that the district transports over 3,000 students in district each day and the district is also responsible for over 2,000 students that are out of district. She commended the staff of the transportation department for a job well done. Mr. Helmstetter thanked Ms. Dunn for her hard work in this area. Dr. Jakubowski said that the first few days of school, the transportation department probably goes through a greater adjustment period than any other department. He said that he has mentioned to the transportation department that he thought it would be appropriate for the supervisors of transportation and he to do a "Our Schools" program on Channel 34 so that people can appreciate what the district goes through on a daily basis.

Dr. Jakubowski said that he met with the French teacher from Kawameeh, Mrs. Morrow today. He said that each year the French class has gone up to Canada for a few days on a class trip. Dr. Jakubowski said that he did not think there would be a problem in approving this trip. He said that this trip would be no cost to the board and he would speak to Mr. Bell, the principal of Kawameeh, because the approval of any trip must be generated by the principal.

Dr. Jakubowski said that he had received a request from the U.T.E.A. who have requested that the district name the Union High School auditorium "The Samuel J. Fortunato, Jr. Auditorium". He said that this practice has been done throughout the district for principals who have retired. Dr. Jakubowski said that the U.T.E.A. would like to see this done sometime in December before Mr. Fortunato retires. He recommended to the board that the district move forward with this and he asked Mr. Shanahan to meet with Mr. Magliacano in terms of preparing a plaque. Dr. Jakubowski asked the board if there was a consensus of the board that they were in favor of doing this. Mr. Helmstetter said that there has been prior discussion regarding this matter and personally he was in favor of the idea. He asked any board member if they had any problem with this. There was a consensus of the board to go forward. Dr. Jakubowski said that he would leave it up to the building as to what type of dedication they would like to do and he asked Mr. Shanahan to keep him apprised of the details.

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Mrs. Amorosa said that she has a student who presently attends Central-5 School and in speaking with some of the teachers, she found out that the computers in the classrooms are not working and have not been working since the beginning of the year. Dr. Jakubowski asked Mr. Tatum to answer this question. Mr. Tatum stated that he did receive a report last week regarding the computers at Central-5 School. He said that he understood the problem there to be a "server" issue. Mr. Tatum said that he went to Central-5 and spoke to the teacher personally and he presently has the technology department working on the problem. He said that he also wanted to announce that he was reassigning responsibilities to different technology department members so that they can be a little more expedient in terms of taking care of those issues that arise at the school level. Mr. Tatum said that there were updates done at Central-5 over the summer, different programs have been installed and he is monitoring how those programs are operating at this time. Mrs. Amorosa asked Mr. Tatum when he thought the server issue would be solved. Mr. Tatum thought it would be resolved very quickly because he has assigned this task out to the network technician and he hoped it would be taken care of with the next few days. He told Mrs. Amorosa to give him a call if this issue is not resolved quickly. Mrs. Amorosa said with regard to the incidents at Central-5 within the past few weeks, she wanted to commend the response and the way both incidents were handled. She said that she understood the one person who entered the building toward the end of the day, did so when a staff member was leaving the building and the door had not shut entirely. Mrs. Amorosa thought that staff members needed to be aware to pull doors shut when leaving the building and to be aware of their surroundings of people standing in the vicinity to make sure they do not get into the building. She asked if there were door sensors installed at Central-5. Dr. Jakubowski said that there are door sensors installed at every school. Mrs. Amorosa wanted to know when they were installed. Mr. Magliacano stated they were installed over the summer. Mrs. Amorosa asked when they were activated. Dr. Jakubowski stated there are still some "glitches" with activating all of the sensors. Mrs. Amorosa asked when she could expect the "glitches" to be fixed. Dr. Jakubowski stated that this is a matter that is being handled by the technology department. He said now that the technology department has been expanded by hiring two additional individuals. Dr. Jakubowski said that Mr. Tatum is working on setting up the technology department so that there is a clear cut understanding of what each individual is assigned to do. He said that Mr. Endrzejewski will be the district's network person who will deal with security and will be able to focus on problems/concerns regarding this issue. Mrs. Amorosa said that she was happy that the board was reinstating its Safety Committee as she felt it was very important in light of everything that has been going on across the country. She recommended that Mr. Helmstetter might want to include not only board members but staff members as well as parents and individuals from the community to become a part of this committee. Dr. Jakubowski thanked Mrs. Amorosa for her compliments to Mr.

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Tsirikos for his handling of the two incidents at Central-5. He said that in both cases the police were notified immediately and they patrolled the area for the entire day. Dr. Jakubowski said that Mr. Tsirikos handled both matters in an unbelievable manner and Mr. Tsirikos did give him a full report. Mrs. Amorosa stated that she has always been a champion for Central-5; she thought the people there were wonderful and she loves the neighborhood where the school is located.

Mr. Selby said that he was a third generation graduate of Union High School. He said that he did attend the worksession last week and brought to the board a problem that he was having with one of his daughter's teachers. Mr. Selby said that Dr. Jakubowski has been more than helpful in this process. He said that there are approximately a dozen other parents that are concerned. Mr. Selby asked if it would be possible for him to bring a petition of "no confidence" in a particular teacher to the board. Mr. Helmstetter asked Mr. Damato if there was anything that would prevent parents from taking this action. Mr. Damato said that people have done this in the past and he said that such a petition could be delivered to his office and he would forward it to the board members. Mr. Helmstetter asked Mr. Selby if the parents would like to meet with Dr. Jakubowski. Mr. Selby said that he could arrange a meeting. He realized that this was a personnel issue but he felt the safety of the children came first. Dr. Jakubowski said that if Mr. Selby wanted to move forward with a petition, he should and he said that he would be willing to set up a convenient time to meet with parents regarding this issue. He said that he had already met with Mr. and Mrs. Selby last Friday and he appreciated their comments and concerns on the matter.

Ms. Ciampi said that she was at the meeting representing the League of Women Voters for Students Voting. She thanked the board and Dr. Jakubowski for their offer to help and support the League due to the illness of Mrs. Kessler. Ms. Ciampi said that with the November 7th election fast approaching, the League of Women Voters, the Board of Education and the PTAs have joined together in preparation for its annual student voting project. She said that she would need help with coverage at all official adult polling places which includes the district's schools as well as the YMHA, YMCA, Grace Lutheran Church and the Senior Citizen Center. Ms. Ciampi said that the League was extremely appreciative of the assistance which it has received in the past and are asking for volunteers to help for at least one, two-hour shift at a time and location that an individual finds convenient. She said that each volunteer would greet the student, have them sign their name, address and school on the registration form and then the volunteer will supply the young voter with a paper ballot and a pencil so that they can vote. Ms. Ciampi said that the completed ballot is to be placed in a cardboard ballot box, each child will receive a sticker which says "I Voted" and at the end of the last shift, all votes will be tallied at Town Hall. She said that the school with the highest number of student voters will receive a \$100 gift certificate which will be awarded to that school's librarian

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toward the purchase of new books and the second highest turn out will receive a \$50 gift certificate for the same. Ms. Ciampi said that a letter would be going home through the schools asking for volunteers to sign up. She said that if any individual would like to be a part of this wonderful program, she asked persons to complete and return the tear-off at the bottom of the letter as soon as possible. Ms. Ciampi said that this program is for the students of Union who will benefit from the experience in many ways. She said that many teachers join in the encouragement of teaching the valuable lesson of the privilege of voting with an incentive of getting extra credit when the student shows his/her "I Voted" sticker. Ms. Ciampi passed out a "sign-up" sheet to any board members who wished to volunteer. She complimented Ms. French for her presentation at the parent advisory meeting. Ms. Ciampi thought there would be another parent advisory meeting at the end of October and she hoped that there was as good a turnout of parents like the previous meeting.

Ms. Loessel said that she started coming to board meetings about eight years ago regarding safety and security and she did speak to parents from Central-5 who were reassured that the incidents that occurred there were handled correctly and in the right manner. She said that she remembered that when PMK first came into the district to give ideas regarding safety procedures, she remembered that they had mentioned there would be procedures for "drills" and she wondered about a procedure for "lock downs" in the school buildings. Mr. Helmstetter said that he attended the PTA executive board meeting at Battle Hill School the other evening and he said that Ms. Warren has two lock-down drills and an evacuation drill planned and there was also a bus evacuation drill already done at the school. He assumed that all schools are planning similar drills. Ms. Loessel thought that having plans for such drills was very important as times have changed because it was important for the students to know what to do in an emergency. Dr. Jakubowski said that he told all of the building principals that they had to have at least one lock down and one evacuation drill during the year. He said that Mr. Tsirikos has already done a lock down drill at Central-5 due to the incidents which had occurred in his building. Dr. Jakubowski said that the principals report to Mr. Tatum monthly and the supervisors report to Mrs. Lombardi and they are required to put down their activities. Ms. Loessel thought that it was important for the students to know what they are supposed to do in case of an emergency. Dr. Jakubowski said that he had met with Sgt. Speckhart from the police department and gave him a new copy of the entire district's emergency management plan along with a copy of the district's quick reference manual. Ms. Loessel asked if all schools have the quick reference manual. Dr. Jakubowski said that all schools have them. Ms. Loessel asked if staff goes to any other security training sessions. Dr. Jakubowski said that there has been no training for security in about two years and he thought that maybe it was time to include such training in one of the staff development days that was planned for later in the year. He said that on the next staff development day, all administrators are

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meeting with one of the district's attorneys to discuss issues such as special education and confidentiality. Dr. Jakubowski said that he wanted the district's attorney to advise administrators about what is confidential and what can be done as a part of the district's programs. Ms. Loessel was thrilled to hear that the board was reinstating the Safety Committee. She felt that this was a step in the right direction, she also recommended that it be opened up to staff, students, and even parents and she would be more than happy to be on the committee.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

There being no further business before the board it was moved by Mr. Perkins, seconded by Mr. Abraham that the meeting be adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted

JAMES J. DAMATO
BOARD SECRETARY