

TO ALL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS:

The Organization Meeting of the Board of Education of the Township of Union will be held on Tuesday, January 6, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at Union High School, North Third Street, Union, New Jersey 07083.

The Organization Meeting of the Board of Education of the Township of Union was held at the Union High School Library on Tuesday, January 6, 2015 at 7 p.m. pursuant to notice sent to each member.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Damato, the Secretary of the Board of Education at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Tatum led the board members and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

OATHS OF OFFICE

Mr. Damato stated that he would at this point in the meeting administer the oaths of office to the newly elected board members, one was reelected and two were newly elected and they are: Mr. Vito Nufrio, Mr. Ronnie McDowell and Mrs. Nancy Zuena.

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL: Mr. David Arminio, Dr. Guy Francis, Mr. Richard Galante, Ms. Lois Jackson, Mr. Thomas Layden, Mr. Ronnie McDowell, Vito Nufrio, Mr. Angel Salcedo and Mrs. Nancy Zuena

ABSENT AT ROLL CALL: None

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

COMMUNICATION:

LETTER OF RESIGNATION – JOHNSON

Ki'Ameer Silk Johnson, teacher assistant at Union High School, submitted a letter of resignation effective January 9, 2015.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Tatum said that there would be no formal superintendent's report this evening but he wanted to take the opportunity to welcome the new board members. He said that he was looking forward to working with them as the board moved forward thorough this school year and the years to come.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON RESOLUTIONS ON THE AGENDA

None

ORGANIZATION

PRESIDENT

Mr. Damato called for nominations for the Office of President

Moved by Dr. Francis, seconded by Mr. Nufrio that David Arminio be nominated for the Office of President

Mr. Damato called for other nominations for the office of President. There being none the nominations for the office of President were closed.

DISCUSSION:

None

AYE: Mr. Arminio, Dr. Francis, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Layden, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Nufrio, Mr. Salcedo and Mrs. Zuena

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Mr. Galante MOTION WAS CARRIED

Mr. Arminio assumed the chair as President of the Board.

Mr. Arminio thanked the board for the opportunity to be president of the board.

VICE PRESIDENT

Mr. Arminio called for nominations for the Office of Vice President.

Moved by Dr. Francis, seconded by Mrs. Zuena that Vito Nufrio be nominated for the Office of Vice President

Mr. Arminio called for other nominations for the office of Vice President. There being none the nominations for the office of Vice President were closed.

DISCUSSION

None

AYE: Mr. Arminio, Dr. Francis, Ms. Jackson, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Nufrio, Mr. Salcedo and Mrs. Zuena

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Mr. Galante and Mr. Layden MOTION WAS CARRIED

MEETING NIGHTS

Moved by Mr. Arminio, seconded by Mr. Nufrio that that the schedule of committee meetings, worksessions and regular meetings be adopted in accordance with the schedule appended to these minutes; and be it further moved that copies be posted in the Administration Building and with the Township Clerk and that copies be sent to the Star Ledger and the Union County Local Source for publication.

DISCUSSION:

None

AYE: Dr. Francis, Mr. Galante, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Layden, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Nufrio, Mr. Salcedo, Mrs. Zuena and Mr. Arminio
 NAY: None
 ABSTAIN: None MOTION WAS CARRIED

Mr. Arminio stated that he wanted to interrupt the regular agenda at this time for the following announcement:

The Township of Union School District suffered a very tragic loss of one of its students on January 3, 2015. Union High School, eleventh grade student, Jason Lopes, died at home of natural causes. Jason was an avid soccer player and member of the Union High School soccer team. He was a friend to many as well as the Township of Union community. Jason's soccer coach, Lester Lembrick, provided the following statement: "On Saturday, January 3rd, the Union High School Boys' Soccer program lost an irreplaceable family member in Jason Lopes. He was an outstanding student athlete and role-model for an entire community. This sudden tragedy has left us all devastated and will always leave an emptiness that can never be filled. It is with the highest regard that we extend our deepest sympathy and condolences to the entire Lopes Family and all of their friends. Jason will be missed by all of his friends, classmates and teachers within the Union School community."

Visitation is scheduled this evening from 5 to 9 p.m. at Galante Funeral Home on Morris Avenue in Union. A funeral mass will be celebrated at Our Lady of Fatima Church, 403 Spring Street in Elizabeth tomorrow, Wednesday, January 7th at 9:30 a.m.

Mr. Arminio asked that everyone join with him in a moment of silence in memory of Jason Lopes.

READOPT POLICY MANUAL

Moved by Mr. Arminio, seconded by Mr. Layden that the Policy Manual of the Township of Union Board of Education presently in effect be hereby readopted.

DISCUSSION:

None

AYE: Dr. Francis, Mr. Galante, Mr. Layden, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Nufrio, Mr. Salcedo, Mrs. Zuena and Mr. Arminio
 NAY: None
 ABSTAIN: Ms. Jackson MOTION WAS CARRIED

DESIGNATE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS

Moved by Dr. Francis, seconded by Mr. Galante that the Board adopt the formal resolution attached to these minutes designating the Union County Local Source and the Star Ledger as newspapers to receive notice of meetings and fixing charges for notices to the public meetings in the amount of \$35 for 2015.

DISCUSSION:

None

AYE: Dr. Francis, Mr. Galante, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Layden, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Nufrio, Mr. Salcedo, Mrs. Zuena and Mr. Arminio

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION WAS CARRIED

DESIGNATE INTERNET WEBSITE FOR OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION

Moved by Ms. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Salcedo that the Board adopt formal resolution designating Township of Union Board of Education's internet website (www.twpunionschools.org) for official notification of Requests for Proposal (RFP) pursuant to the New Jersey local unit pay-to-play law in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

DISCUSSION:

None

AYE: Dr. Francis, Mr. Galante, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Layden, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Nufrio, Mr. Salcedo, Mrs. Zuena and Mr. Arminio

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION WAS CARRIED

DESIGNATE DEPOSITORIES FOR FUNDS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF UNION BOARD OF EDUCATION

Moved by Mr. Layden, seconded by Mr. McDowell that the Board designate Connect One Bank, Investors Savings Bank, Wells Fargo Bank, Unity Bank and MBI Class as depositories for funds of the Township of Union Board of Education as currently maintained in accordance with the list appended to these minutes.

DISCUSSION:

None

AYE: Dr. Francis, Mr. Galante, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Layden, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Nufrio, Mr. Salcedo, Mrs. Zuena and Mr. Arminio

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION WAS CARRIED

AUTHORIZE DEPOSITORY BANKS TO HONOR AND CHARGE ACCOUNTS OF TOWNSHIP OF UNION BOARD OF EDUCATION

Moved by Mrs. Zuena, seconded by Ms. Jackson that the Board authorize the following depository banks be and are hereby authorized to honor and to charge the accounts of the Township of Union Board of Education and all Board of Education checks and drafts bearing the stamp or perforation commonly known as a facsimile signature of the Treasurer of School Monies and the President of the Board of Education and that checks and drafts of the various Board of Education accounts be signed by the designated officers in accordance with the list attached to these minutes.

DISCUSSION:

None

AYE: Dr. Francis, Mr. Galante, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Layden, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Nufrio, Mr. Salcedo, Mrs. Zuena and Mr. Arminio

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION WAS CARRIED

PERSONNEL

P-1. APPROVE EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT – TATUM

Moved by Mr. Galante, seconded by Mr. Layden that the Board approve employment contract of Gregory A. Tatum and appointing him as Superintendent of Schools for the period November 1, 2014 through June 30, 2018 in accordance with the information appended to these minutes. (This contract was approved by the Executive County Superintendent of Schools)

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Arminio congratulated Mr. Tatum on his appointment as Superintendent of Schools. He said that he knew the board could would with him to make the district a better place for all of its students.

Mr. Nufrio said that he had been looking forward to this day for a number of years. He said that he was hopeful that Mr. Tatum would lead the district upward and forward. Mr. Nufrio congratulated Mr. Tatum on his appointment.

Mr. Layden said that he has had the pleasure of working with Mr. Tatum for the past five years and he felt that Mr. Tatum would do a fine job as Superintendent. He wished Mr. Tatum the best of luck and he looked forward to working with him in the future.

Mr. Galante said that it was an honor to move the resolution to appoint Mr. Tatum as Superintendent. He said that he has been working with Mr. Tatum for a very long time and it has been a very rewarding experience. Mr. Galante wished Mr. Tatum the best of luck.

AYE: Dr. Francis, Mr. Galante, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Layden, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Nufrio, Mr. Salcedo, Mrs. Zuena and Mr. Arminio
 NAY: None
 ABSTAIN: None MOTION WAS CARRIED

Mr. Tatum said that he felt everyone knew the challenges that the district has ahead of it and he felt that the district had a lot of work to do. He said that he was happy to report that yesterday he "put out feelers" to start the Executive Planning Committee which he had been talking about over the past couple of months and he had 45 staff members who were ready to "roll up their sleeves" and get busy. Mr. Tatum said that he would also be looking for parents to join the committee and get the work started.

P-2. ACCEPT RESIGNATION – JOHNSON

Moved by Mr. Galante, seconded by Mr. Nufrio that the Board accept resignation of Ki'Ameer Silk Johnson, teacher assistant at Union High School, effective January 9, 2015.

DISCUSSION:

None

AYE: Dr. Francis, Mr. Galante, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Layden, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Nufrio, Mr. Salcedo, Mrs. Zuena and Mr. Arminio
 NAY: None
 ABSTAIN: None MOTION WAS CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Arminio said that on January 14th there is a Union County Meet Up from the NJSBA. He said that he had flyers to distribute to the board. Mr. Arminio said that the event runs from 6:45 to 9 p.m.; dinner is included and there is no fee to attend.

Mr. Layden said that he wanted to welcome Mrs. Zuena and Mr. McDowell to the board of education. He said that he was looking forward to working with each of them and he wanted to congratulate Mr. Nufrio on his re-election to the board. Mr. Layden also wanted to congratulate Mr. Arminio and Mr. Nufrio for being elected President and Vice President of the board.

Mr. Arminio said that he would also like to congratulate Mrs. Zuena and Mr. McDowell for their election to the board. He said that he hoped they find that a lot can be accomplished in the upcoming year. Mr. Arminio also congratulated Mr. Nufrio on his re-election.

Mr. Nufrio congratulated Mr. Arminio for being elected President of the board. He said that as he looked forward to having Mr. Tatum lead the district for the next three years and he thanked the board for placing the confidence in him to be the Vice President. Mr. Nufrio said that he would dedicate his full and total attention and focus on what needs to be done to bring the district forward. He also congratulated Mrs. Zuena and Mr. McDowell on their election to the board; he said that they are joining an elite group of individuals.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr. Frazier, Vice President of the U.T.E.A., wanted to extend a thank you for allowing work on a new contract. He also congratulated the new members of the board of education, Mrs. Zuena who he has had the pleasure to work with; Mr. McDowell, who he has known since he was a child and Mr. Arminio who he has also known since he was a child and who he has had the pleasure of working with him as part of the U.T.E.A. and now look forward to having him as president of the board. Mr. Frazier also congratulated Mr. Tatum on being appointed Superintendent of Schools and he knew that he would have a wonderful working relationship with Mr. Tatum. Mr. Tatum said that he was glad that Mr. Frazier hadn't said he knew Mr. Tatum "since he was a child." Mr. Frazier said that the wonderful thing about Union Township was that people continue to give back to the community in different roles. He said that he looked forward to working with the new board for the upcoming year.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

There being no further business before the board, it was moved by Mr. Nufrio, seconded by Dr. Francis that the meeting be adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

AYE:	Dr. Francis, Mr. Galante, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Layden, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Nufrio, Mr. Salcedo, Mrs. Zuena and Mr. Arminio
NAY:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

MOTION WAS CARRIED

Respectfully submitted

JAMES J. DAMATO
BOARD SECRETARY