

**TOWNSHIP OF UNION BOARD OF EDUCATION
WORKSESSION MINUTES – NOVEMBER 14, 2017**

NOTICE OF MEETING:

The worksession meeting of the Board of Education of the Township of Union was held on Tuesday, November 14, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Administration Building, 2369 Morris Avenue, Union, New Jersey pursuant to the notice sent to each member. Action was taken.

Mr. McDowell called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:

Mr. David Arminio, Mr. Ron McDowell, Mrs. Nancy Minneci, Mr. Jeffrey Monge, Mr. Vito Nufrio, Mrs. Nellis Regis-Darby, Mrs. Mary Lynn Williams, Mrs. Nancy Zuena

ABSENT AT ROLL CALL:

Dr. Guy Francis (arrived at 7:04 p.m.)

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Mr. Gregory Tatum, Mr. Gerry Benaquista, Mr. Gregory Brennan, Mrs. Kim Conti, Mrs. Ann Hart, Mr. Craig Wojcik, Mr. Barry Loessel

ALSO PRESENT:

Mr. Paul Griggs, Esq.

Mr. McDowell led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Brennan read the statement required under the "Open Public Meetings Act", a copy of which is on file in the office of the Board Secretary.

Mr. Arminio read the District's mission statement.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON RESOLUTION IN BOLD ONLY:

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes will be approved next week.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Communications relate to some of the resolutions on the agenda

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Tatum stated tonight's report is a preview of what is ahead for next week. The main topic next week will be our student achievement and PARCC scores. We will speak about the progress of the District and then I will give highlights from the previous month and any upcoming activities.

EDUCATION/STUDENT DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS:

Mrs. Regis-Darby stated I want to give an update from our committee meeting tonight. This is in reference to the PARCC results. We met our targets in both ELA and math. Level 1 and Level 2 has decreased and we increased in Levels 4 and 5 for the 2016-2017 school year.

Principals' action plans have been submitted based on the data, based on the PARCC results – the principals have submitted the action plan to the supervisors. The supervisors will address Levels 1 and 2 and the principal will address Levels 3, 4 and 5. It is supposed to meet the needs of the RTI which is in response to intervention and SEL which is social emotional learning. We want to make sure that it is included in any intervention plans for the kids as we move forward. Also to meet the needs of our special needs students and exceptional needs and gifted in that category.

Kudos to the elementary school – they did above State average on the PARCC test so a big shout to all the teachers and the students who took that PARCC test.

As we moved forward, Mrs. Moses wants to start a district-level student advisory group and start with the high school and the middle school students. I think that is something that we can look forward to where we will have the high schoolers and middle schoolers coming in here and have discussion about topics and concerns that they have. I think it is a program that should be implemented and I think they will do a fantastic job with that program.

Mr. Arminio stated before you get into the resolutions – in light of the report you just gave, I would like to address something and I guess the Superintendent can respond to this – I was at the Education Committee meeting and the high school did some things well and some things not so well but there was a rumor going around and I would hope that you can dispel this ugly rumor that the high school is going to be taken over by the State because we did not do well on the PARCC. I heard that from 2-3 people and I kind of know where it came from but I have no proof but I would like you to respond to that so that we can dispel this rumor.

Mr. Tatum stated it is news to me and the truth is if indeed such a rumor would be close to being true, I would have been advised by the County Office with representatives of the State of New Jersey. I think it would be my duty to bring that information to this Board of Education and neither has happened. Of course there has been a lot of speculation on how things have been going around here over the last couple of weeks. Mrs. Darby just mentioned part of what I will be mentioning next week about where the test scores are. When she said we had gone down in some areas, the tiers she mentioned going down is good – they are not bad. When people see minuses they think about the old way of testing where minus meant you were doing poorly. When you have negatives in that column means you are decreasing the number of students who are actually not achieving and you are increasing the number of students that are. In terms of our high school, we have a high school that actually improved tremendously over the last couple of years. I would have thought it would be just the opposite. Most recently our high school has gone up twice in the ranking across the State of New Jersey so to think that our high school would be taken over is a myth and the State is doing just the opposite now. They don't want to takeover, they are telling us you do the job. Those districts that have been taken over by the

State have not been successful by the way. If you look at the real numbers – Jersey City and some of the others where they call them special need districts, they are even taking that classification away because all that intervention did absolutely nothing. Our high school is making steady progress – there are areas that we need to work on but the goal is always continuous incremental improvement. You will see in our tests scores is exactly what is shown. Our District is on the move and not going in the other direction. We have a couple of areas that we have identified that we could put a little more effort into it but if the State wants to take this high school by now I think I would have known about that.

Mr. Arminio stated if they take over it is the whole district not just one school. Mr. Tatum stated they don't take just one building, they take the whole district.

Mr. Nufrio stated how can you possibly conceive such a concept that the State would target the high school – it would target the entire district. Wherever you are getting this information from I suggest you bring it back to them and tell them wherever that person got it from was a total liar.

Mr. Tatum stated the high school is meeting all their goal targets. They are meeting the targets that are set for them. We have evidence that we are actually doing better than some of the high schools.

Mrs. Regis-Darby stated I think you are using the terminology that a lot of us who are not in this, don't understand. The word "growth" and "exceed in standard" and "meeting standards" and using data now to drive how we are going to implement change for the students in the high school. I think people really need to sit back and really reflect and what those words really mean and what is the district doing for the kids in terms of when we say that we are implementing RTI – implementing which is a big thing – response to intervention and implementing SEL – social emotional learning - the role that plays on a student and the word "growth" and what does that mean in terms of I didn't pass a test and you passed a test – there is a big difference between your son didn't pass a test and your child made growth in a test – there is a big difference between those words.

Mr. Monge stated PARCC as we all know, if you are taking it as a senior there is no requirement for college so what is the incentive of one taking it or even trying to aspire to do well that's one and two is you can actually grade as a sophomore and meet the requirements so what happens when you take it again as a junior or senior if you want to and then there are some kids that did not take it at all and then the other thing as a district, we have a district that is not like a magnet school that is the cream of the crop; essentially we have kids from all different educational attainment background that take it so there are a lot of things that you have to take with a grain of salt as it pertains to PARCC testing and even it is going to be around in the future.

Mrs. Regis-Darby stated if anyone wants to see the data, they should wait until the State releases those numbers and those numbers will come out soon and if anyone needs to read those numbers, I will give you two hours and we can look at those numbers together. You will see where the increases and decreases are. We should wait and take a look at those actual numbers when the State does release those findings.

Mr. Nufrio stated in PARCC or any test that the State deems valuable; the variables are so many that a sophomore may not be the junior, the junior may not become the senior – it is always a number of variables that impact the results and with PARCC there is no such thing as pass or fail. It is a way of gaging where the needs and the deficiencies may exist so that we as a district under the guidance of Mrs. Moses, Mr. Tatum and Mr. Benaquista can be certain that we will address the instructional staff and their bosses and how to address those deficiencies so that we can bring those levels up. Anyone who uses pass or fail in their terminology needs to really understand that is not a pass or fail test.

Mrs. Regis-Darby stated there is going to be a parent i-ready workshop on November 17th and Kean University college workshop for parents and guardians and students of grades 11 and 12th grade. It is a really good partnership for the parents to attend.

Mrs. Regis-Darby presented the Education/Student Discipline agenda.

Moved by Mrs. Regis-Darby, seconded by Mr. Arminio, that the following resolutions we adopted:

E-2. CERTIFY FINDINGS

Certify the findings of the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) Office of Fiscal Accountability and Compliance investigation in OFAC Case SIU-019-15 were discussed at the October 17, 2017 Board of Education meeting.

E-4. APPROVE STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT

Approve Stipulation of Settlement for J.M., in accordance with the non-public information appended to the minutes.

E-5. APPROVE TEACHERS EMPLOYED THROUGH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION SERVICES, INC. – BEDSIDE INSTRUCTION

Approve teachers employed through Professional Education Services, Inc. to provide bedside instruction for District students on an “as needed” basis for the 2017-2018 school year in an amount not to exceed \$15,000, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

DISCUSSION:

None

AYE: Mr. Arminio, Dr. Francis, Mrs. Minneci, Mr. Monge, Mr. Nufrio, Mrs. Regis-Darby, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Zuena, Mr. McDowell

NAY: none

ABSTAIN: none

MOTION CARRIED

FISCAL AND PLANNING COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS:

Mr. Monge stated I'll give a quick update on the committee meeting. We have four committee goals that I mentioned last month and I will provide updates on those and the progress.

One is the updating of the facility plan execution and Mr. Brennan is going to be meeting with the architects tomorrow so we will look at exploring what they are doing in Maplewood. It is very important for us to figure out what we are going to be doing for next year as it pertains to capital projects and we went through this very comprehensive process with the facility plan so we should make sure that we use that as our guide in trying to make decisions for next year. Mr. Brennan will provide an update on that meeting.

The second thing is we talked about finalizing the RFP calendar and the development of RFP's. We actually have a decent list and I know there was a draft calendar before. We just need to make sure we get the boilerplate RFP's for those services. We have to make some progress there. We have some of them but we need to have the rest of them hopefully by next month – can we make that a goal?

The review of the F-2 presentation comparison – I have been talking about this since I have been on this Board as far as trying to look at what budget we actually voted on as a Board and compare it along the way as we go through the year. Historically what we have done, we have approved transfers and then the transfers have been incorporated into the updated budget but we lose vision of what we originally voted on. I thought it was Christmas, I got the email – a very detailed version of it which is fantastic and Mr. Brennan spoke to the committee about trying to summarize it down to what we normally vote on as a Board for budgets. So that would be great – so if we see some discrepancy we can actually go into detail to see why things are moving and we can look at that throughout the year.

Lastly, we talked about the improvement of the zero-based budget and I know that some of those meetings are happening and I will have a question for you later Mr. Griggs.

The very last thing is the update on the service agreement. You will see my email. We said we wanted to try to have some type of resolution by the end of the year. We have been talking about this for months – frankly years if we look at when we first took this on. Again dispel rumors that have no substance because there is nothing to review. We should try to get that before the end of the year and that was a commitment that we had received at that meeting.

Mr. Nufrio stated the last time which was quite a long time ago that I recall – probably last year, where I said at some point the actual service agreement should be reviewed by the Board Attorney and I know Mr. Griggs was waiting to see the assessment of the Shared Service Agreement before you could actually do a complete analysis of the contract. With any contract, if there is a breach anywhere, the contract can be deemed void, nullified so the sooner we get that done, the faster we can respond to it.

Moved by Mr. Monge, seconded by Mr. Nufrio, that the following resolutions be adopted:

F-11. APPROVE CHANGE, CLOSE, REFUND - JACK SEGALE MEMORIAL TRACK FUND

Approve to (a) change signatory on the Jack Segale Memorial Track Fund at Investors Savings Bank to Gregory Brennan, (b) close the “Jack Segale Memorial Track Fund” account at Investors Bank and (c) refund the current balance of \$141.07 to Nancy Segale.

F-18. APPROVE AMENDING PRESENTER FOR PARENT TRAINING SESSION

Approve amending presenter for previously approved parent training session for Suicide Prevention and Awareness (Board approved on June 20, 2017 (F-46)), to Arlene O’Connell, MA, LPC, TLC Coordinator, at previously approved rate of \$450 per session, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Monge stated clarification for F-18 – we approved another presenter who was not able to attend so Mrs. O’Connell is her replacement.

AYE: Mr. Arminio, Dr. Francis, Mrs. Minneci, Mr. Monge, Mr. Nufrio, Mrs. Regis-Darby, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Zuena, Mr. McDowell

NAY: none

ABSTAIN: none

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Monge presented the Fiscal and Planning Committee agenda.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Nufrio stated F-16 and F-12 – the F-12 response from Mrs. Conti was that sometimes the same providers are not available because of their own agendas and schedules and it is necessary to do in-depth psychiatric evaluations which are more costly because I recall last year the numbers were a couple hundred dollars less but don’t hold me to that. I knew \$900 was slightly unfamiliar to me but that was answered for me. F-16 we couldn’t get an answer from Mrs. Conti so if anybody knows. Mrs. Cappiello stated Joe Seugling – it is a reimbursement. Mr. Brennan stated it is a parent contract. Mr. Monge stated the question was how do they establish the rates? Mr. Brennan stated I’m being informed from Mrs. Cappiello that the rate is based on 54 cents per mile and it is different locations and different mileages and that is why it is different. Mr. Monge stated there should be a back-up to this. Mrs. Cappiello stated it is the IRS mileage. Mr. Monge stated we must have our own policy that allows for reimbursement. Mrs. Cappiello stated this has to go through the State and approved by the State. Mr. Griggs stated the State law permits it.

Mr. Monge stated Mr. Benaquista pointed out something that we will talk about after that F-19 and F-20 are for the same services – one has a higher rate than the other. The question ends up being really do we approve both knowing that looking at the \$120 rate but if there is a back-up maybe the person is not available and this is the best that we have for the services that we are requesting? Mr. Benaquista stated Ms. Hall did help me in the process and there was a third one but I haven’t gotten an agreement from them. We might possibly get a third local – all qualified.

Mr. Monge stated very much like the architects where we selected three architects. Mr. Benaquista stated to give more options; some do say there is 24-48 hours to get an appointment depending on the volume that they are dealing with and it would help our community to have more options. We are going to keep Montclair on the table but these are more. Some people might want to still use that location. It will be more options for the parents.

Mr. Monge stated F-15 is the work for the HVAC at the library. This came out of multiple bids – 11 bids so that is great and this is through a competitive process to get the best services at the best price.

GRIEVANCE/NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE:

Dr. Francis presented the Grievance/Negotiations Committee agenda.

DISCUSSION:

None

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS:

Mrs. Zuena presented the Operations Committee agenda.

DISCUSSION ITEM: Letter from United Community Center, Inc. requesting use of Hannah Caldwell School's auditorium for their annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration on Monday, January 15, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and audio system.

DISCUSSION:

Mrs. Zuena stated there was some discussion last year after attending the event. It is a wonderful celebration except they leave the children waiting until the end to get their awards and they sit about three hours in the auditorium and it is very long. They have to listen to political speeches and I would never discredit this day but I feel that the children should be awarded in the beginning because it is too much for them to sit. By the end of the presentation everyone has left, the speakers have left and the children are there with their families sitting by themselves so maybe that type of discussion can be addressed to them.

Mr. Arminio stated I understand and I agree with you because I go every year. However, if the kids were given their awards first, they and their parents would leave. Mr. Monge stated to that point, the program is great as well but the reality is you have 15 politicians that have their say and it took forever. I have a family member who is special needs that had to come out of her seat at least eight times during that period of time. We are talking about the kids and they had a great speaker as well and that came at the very tail end. One of the sorority sisters that participates in that process I was told that the last class that received their award, no one was there. The ability to go up and receive an award and an auditorium filled with people clapping is totally gone by the last couple of kids that are left in the auditorium by themselves.

I think it is respectful for the Mayor, the President of the Board, maybe just a representative with a quicken agenda but you can't have those kids sitting there. Mrs. Zuena

stated it was at least two hours. Mr. Monge stated I think there needs to be some consideration to those kids.

Mr. McDowell stated I think as a Board all we can do is approve the use of our auditorium and the speaker system. These kinds of statements/concerns should be addressed to the United Community Center as private citizens because I don't believe as a Board we can instruct them on how they do their program but as a parent I can say listen last year the program was a disaster but I would be saying that as a private citizen and not as a Board member.

Mr. Monge stated in essence we are participating in the process because the awards are being done in collaboration with the school board. Mr. McDowell stated I don't think it is being done in collaboration. They are using our building. Mr. Monge stated I'm talking about the kids are selected through the schools. At least the parents should know what they can expect on that day. They don't know and I see these kids twitching and turning and some folks did leave. I go back to the special needs kids, there should be some consideration provided as it pertains to that.

Mr. Nufrio stated I tend to agree with the kid part and I agree with you as well that it is not a Board arena that we should go in to. It is not an area where we as the Board should go into; I think the Superintendent can since he is in charge of the District and all the children and all who oversee our children. Perhaps you can reach a compromise suggesting to them that maybe we can intermittently give out the awards.

Mr. Tatum stated in the past our effort is to support and supply information to them as needed but as having input in terms of how the program is put together and how it does progress, however that does not preclude us as a school district to giving feedback based upon the students and what we have observed. It is nothing more than suggesting. We certainly can't say you have to do this and this. As those of us who are allegedly trained with working with children and understanding child development and the special needs population, here is what we would recommend. We can certainly provide that feedback.

Mrs. Zuena stated we will put it on next week to vote on. I needed to find out if we need to add a resolution to replace the ceilings at Livingston School for next week; Barry can you comment on that? Mr. Loessel stated I don't know what you are talking about.

Mr. Monge stated O-3 as it pertains to the high school change order and O-4 – let's offer a clarification. We voted on a budget for the high school project which included ceilings, alarm system and lighting; we are not over budget on that budget. These are change orders that are part and partial to why you have contingencies which are part of the budget. We are not over budget in the high school project. Does anyone on this Board have any questions about this?

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS:

Mr. Arminio presented the Personnel Committee agenda.

Mr. Arminio stated in our Personnel Committee meeting we had today we discussed some positions that we already approved – one is the supervisor to replace Ms. Baskerville and hopefully we will have that on the agenda next week. We are doing the final interviews in the

next day or two. Also the second trainer that we already approved – they did the final interview today. We will have it for next week the recommendation by the Superintendent.

Moved by Mr. Arminio, seconded by Mr. Monge, that the following resolution be adopted:

P-1. APPROVE PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Personnel Actions be approved in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

DISCUSSION:

None

AYE: Mr. Arminio, Dr. Francis, Mrs. Minneci, Mr. Monge, Mr. Nufrio, Mrs. Regis-Darby, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Zuena, Mr. McDowell

NAY: none

ABSTAIN: none

MOTION CARRIED

POLICY COMMITTEE:

Mr. Arminio presented the Policy Committee agenda.

First reading of Policy File Code 5141.5 – Student Suicide Prevention and Crisis Intervention. We have changed it several times in the last year. These are updates that are mandated by the State and I think Mrs. Conti and Mr. Griggs can fill us in on the details. Mr. Benaquista stated page 3 has some language change that the State wanted us to update. We were directed by the State and at the end of the policy the minor changes are based on a discussion the last time we were approving the policy change. I did include the more local places that parents will have the choice to go to. As well as we did add Atlantic Health Systems which is Overlook Hospital as another alternative site. I am sure there will be other changes because this policy seems to keep updating.

RESIDENCY COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS:

Mrs. Zuena presented the Residency Committee agenda.

DISCUSSION:

None

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Mr. Monge stated we didn't have an opportunity to have our meeting but Mrs. Paul did provide an update that we placed an order for Chrome Books for the middle schools. To dispel a rumor, the middle schools are getting wired; we wouldn't be buying Chrome Books without having the infrastructure approved for spending and it is actually in the process of being completed. That will be completed prior to the Chrome Books being distributed to the middle schools.

The elementary schools – we are moving forward with the one-to-one initiative plans for that. Mrs. Paul stated we are working on quotes. Mr. Monge stated there was a testing group trying to switch us over to Gmail to make this District a Google district – to go hand-in-hand with Google classrooms and the other initiatives that we have on the technology side. Hopefully that continues to move forward.

Mr. McDowell stated since Central 5 is one of the newest school, has it be wired? Mrs. Paul stated it is not wired unfortunately. There are two way to wire for Wi-Fi. One is called coverage and one is called density. It is coverage – the Wi-Fi is actually working inside the hallways. When the kids are doing the PARCC, they are doing it inside their classrooms – the one-to-one and the learning and the instructional process is in the classroom so because of that we actually have to rewire the building and bring everything back inside the classroom. Mr. Monge stated that is amazing to me that we built a school and we didn't think about technology.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Bills will be paid next week.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Arminio stated four items this week – next week I will have many more. This Saturday, November 18th at Union High School there is a contest that will be held and sponsored by the VFW. It is a very specific contest. All grades are eligible - a contest on the constitution. There are two parts – they have to give a five minute talk on a question that deals with one of the amendments and then they are given an amendment that they don't know ahead of time and they have to talk on that amendment in relationship to them and their life. It is an impromptu 10 minute talk which is Saturday morning – 8:30 a.m. – upstairs in the lecture hall.

On Monday, November 20th is the Athletic Hall of Fame – the third inducted class will take place at the Galloping Hill Caterers. We are inducting 12 athletes – 1 coach and 1 special contributor and two teams - one football and one gymnastics.

The Relay for Life met once for the planning of that event and we have two more meetings scheduled. One will be with the Town on the 20th and the 27th – our committee with the schools meets. If anyone is interested in joining that committee, see me afterwards.

Finally, there are a lot more coming next week on athletics. We had a good fall season. We had a runner on the cross-country team that won the county cross-country title for the first time since 1953. Maybe Mr. Tatum we should have him at next week's meeting. In 1953 we didn't win a first place, we just medaled. We have not medaled since then.

Mrs. Regis-Darby stated in the past we spoke about the Future Ready Schools and I know the first part of becoming a Future Ready School is November 16th which is later this week. I wanted to know if we applied to become a Future Ready School. Mrs. Paul stated we didn't apply yet because it involves a lot of paperwork and we have to gather a lot of information first but I did speak with Jeremy Wright who is in charge of it at NJIT. I have the list of stuff for us because it is done according to schools, not according to district. Since we already did the one-to-one at the high school and I was hoping to submit the high school but there is paperwork that

needs to be done. I did speak with Jeremy on what we need to do and how we can go about it. He said you have to have the paperwork to get ready to apply.

Mrs. Regis-Darby asked are we going to apply for the 2016-17 school year? Mrs. Paul stated not 17-18 school year. Mrs. Regis-Darby asked will someone be able to attend the meeting on the 16th? I know there are four meetings that you have to go to be part of that orientation – November 16th, December 14th, December 21st and January 9th. Mrs. Paul stated someone will go.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Nufrio stated I was going to read a statement but I am going to forego reading it this evening and I will read it next Tuesday.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Mrs. Lipstein stated most people know that my profession is a librarian. Librarians deal with facts and truths. I have been doing that for 37 years. We know when we need information we go to the primary source or person that has that information. We don't make it up. I do have a question for you and this is probably for Mr. Tatum. I have quite a few but I will only read a few tonight.

Did the violence incidents in our district increase 78%? Mr. Tatum stated the answer is no. In looking at the raw data over the last year it decreased. When you quantify a number to a percentage, it could be a matter of one or two incidences depending on the total number and wind up appearing to be a lot higher in terms of percentage. Everything I am saying can be verified because the State of New Jersey Department of Ed website – there is a Commissioner's report for the entire State of New Jersey.

Mrs. Lipstein stated following up and doing what you are supposed to do before you publish any information before you give to anybody – you research the facts. Did anyone even ask you about the statistics? Mr. Tatum stated the only thing I received was some inquiries from some parents who were concerned about the safety and wellbeing of the District and I did give a response to them because it is my duty to ensure that they have the correct information.

Mrs. Lipstein stated this erroneous information that has no factual basis about the vandalism which was sent out through mailing to I don't know how many thousands of people and that kind of erroneous information needs to be corrected for the entire community. I know you did it for people who brought it to your attention but I think in the future the Board of Education owes it to the community to give the correct information out as soon as possible. Through a robo call or whatever because I know people believe this information and I find it as a librarian reprehensible that it was even put out there and that people believed it because it was sent to them and they didn't know what some parents need to do to get the truth. I think if the mission of our school is honesty and integrity then that is something that this Board needs to talk and change these erroneous facts; correct this kind of stuff immediately and I would like to see that kind of thinking being done. I have substance abuse quadrupled or maybe the vandalism incidences that people were told went up 10 times.

Mr. Tatum stated two things need to be clarified. When you talk about vandalism – vandalism carries a wide array and what is not in a lot of these stats are repeat offenders and that is also with violence as well so you could have one person that may have had one incident and they repeat it again so it appears that those numbers are higher than they actually are because you have to take a look at the number of people that engaged in them.

About a year or so ago we had a gentleman drawing inappropriate symbols in front of one of our schools and that happened about three times. Eventually the person was apprehended but we have a policy in the District that every time there is any type of vandalism, pictures are taken, the police are called and it is removed immediately. If you drive around the Township you will see our buildings are not graffiti filled because that is a process that we follow.

When it comes to substance abuse, substance abuse is a problem that is not only statewide but nationwide and the increases that we may have seen are a factor of what is going on in society. We certainly in this District are not promoting; we are trying to dispel the use of any type of substances. When we did see an increase last school year, we immediately came to the Board, after conversation with the building administration, and we actually included an additional counselor. The fact is when we see issues and we see things happening, we are responding to them. I don't want anyone to think that we are sitting idly by and not responding to the needs of our students in our District.

Mrs. Lipstein stated disseminate the information to the public. Mr. Tatum stated that information is reported two times a year in a public meeting and those numbers are reported to the State are the same numbers that we do report on. Mrs. Lipstein stated so if someone would just do their research, they would have the correct information.

Last one, the Livingston School ceiling – what is the situation with the repair? Mr. Loessel stated I have no clue what people are talking about; there were no ceilings falling at Livingston School. Mrs. Lipstein stated I have the information that was given to the Board and would have been given to anyone who took the time to look. The ceiling was repaired and repainted in summer 2017.

Mr. McDowell stated this is time for public comments and as I said I will try to limit it to five minutes. I prefer that you not ask specific people questions.

Dr. Francis stated Mr. Tatum's hands get tied towards election time. He really can't respond to it because it will make him look like he is being biased. Mrs. Lipstein stated I understand but I think just responding to requests from citizens for information that is erroneous – it is not good for our community.

Rich D'Avanzo stated UTEA Vice President – just to piggy back on what Mr. Tatum was saying about the vandalism because I was at Burnet at that time and growing up in that neighborhood and I know the individual and that is an adult. Anything that happens overnight I'm sure over the years and growing up in Union as a teenager and I knew kids that did stuff to schools – it is all part of it anyway – you can't hold anyone accountable, especially when adults

are doing things and you can go back a number of years where you had security outside the high school because they were vandalizing buses and things like that so that all adds into it as well.

To bring you up to date and unfortunately tonight, Jason Sterlacci lost in Jeopardy tonight. He missed the final question. He was only \$400 behind.

I have a question on Chrome Books – do we usually order new Chrome Books for students that theirs are being repaired? Is there a surplus so when theirs is getting repaired do they get a replacement? Mrs. Moses stated they get a loaner. Mr. D’Avanzo stated I know a couple of teachers have addressed that. Mrs. Paul stated when I first met with Mr. Lowery regarding loaners for the students he said he didn’t want loaners and he didn’t want us to keep loaners. So we do not have a loaner program right now.

Mr. Monge stated that is something we should look into because kids are doing their assignments on their laptops, they need them, they can’t have a gap.

Mr. D’Avanzo stated we had a handful of teachers ask us. Mrs. Moses stated are we talking I forgot my Chrome Book or are we talking about need to be repaired? Mr. D’Avanzo stated need to be repaired. Mrs. Moses stated is there a timeframe for that? When you send it out how long does it take to send in and get them back. Mrs. Paul stated about five days. Mrs. Moses stated so we need loaners for that. Do you have any extra that you ordered? Mrs. Paul stated yes. Mrs. Moses stated so those are the loaners.

Mr. D’Avanzo stated I’m sure there is a procedure in place but when you have new students that come in and they sign a permission slip, who distributes it to a new student? Mrs. Moses stated if a new student enters into the District, the parent has to sign an agreement, when the agreement comes back, the student will get a Chrome Book. If the parent does not sign the agreement and they check off “I do not” then the student should be able to check in and out every day. You can’t get anything unless you get that parent agreement. Mr. D’Avanzo asked who is actually giving them the Chrome Book. Mrs. Moses stated we have an IT department and that is where they should go.

Mr. Nufrio stepped out of meeting.

MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Moved by Mrs. Williams, seconded by Mrs. Minneci, that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss the following subject matters without the presence of the public in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 10:4-2b.

- Pending or anticipated litigation, contract negotiation and matters falling under the attorney-client privilege.
- Matters involving employees and terms of their employment and contract.

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. Arminio, Dr. Francis, Mrs. Minneci, Mr. Monge, Mrs. Regis-Darby,
Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Zuena, Mr. McDowell

NAY: none

ABSTAIN: none

MOTION CARRIED

The Board returned to public session at 10:00 p.m.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the Board in public session it was moved by Mrs. Minnici, seconded by Mrs. Regis-Darby, that the meeting be adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

GREGORY E. BRENNAN
BOARD SECRETARY