

TOWNSHIP OF UNION BOARD OF EDUCATION  
ORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 3, 2019

NOTICE OF MEETING:

TO ALL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS:

The organization meeting of the Board of Education of the Township of Union was held on Thursday, January 3, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the Union High School Library, 2350 North Third Street, Union, New Jersey pursuant to notice sent to each member.

A. Meeting called to order by Gregory Brennan, Board Secretary, at 7:04 p.m.

Mr. Brennan advised the Board members that Mary Lynn Williams will attend the organization meeting via telephone.

B. FLAG SALUTE: Mr. Brennan led the Board and audience members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. ADMINISTER OATHS OF OFFICE: Mr. Brennan administered the oaths of office to the newly elected Board members – Mr. Ronnie McDowell, Dr. Kalisha Morgan and Mrs. Kim Ruiz.

D. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEWLY-ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS:

1. Ronnie McDowell
2. Kalisha Morgan
3. Kim Ruiz

E. PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Sherry Higgins, Mrs. Nancy Minneci, Mr. Ronnie McDowell, Dr. Kalisha Morgan, Mr. Vito Nufrio, Mrs. Nellis Regis-Darby, Mrs. Linda Richardson, Mrs. Kim Ruiz, Mrs. Mary Lynn Williams (by phone)

ABSENT AT ROLL CALL:

None

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Mr. Gregory Tatum, Mr. Gerry Benaquista, Mr. Gregory Brennan

ALSO PRESENT:

Lester Taylor, Esq.

F. OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT STATEMENT – was read by Mr. Brennan. A copy of which is on file in the office of the Board Secretary.

G. MISSION STATEMENT – was read by Mrs. Minneci

H. ORGANIZATION:

PRESIDENT

Mr. Brennan called for nominations for the Office of President

Jeffrey Monge (from audience) shouted point of order please. The public is to have their opportunity to have public comments on agenda items. Mr. Taylor stated with all due respect this is a Board of Education meeting. The point of order would be appropriate for a Board member. The question you asked me a moment ago was “whether there would be a public comment section of the meeting on the agenda”. In reviewing the agenda – item “K” there is a “Comments from the Public” section on tonight’s agenda. The Open Public Meetings Act does require a portion of every board of education meeting to be set aside for comments from the public – this agenda in my opinion does meet the legal requirements of the law. There is no legal requirement for the public comment period to be at a certain portion beginning, middle or end of the meeting. This agenda is compliant with the law. To your point of order, the agenda tonight is in accordance with the law and I would suggest that the Board Secretary proceed.

Mr. Monge stated with all due respect can you please point out where that is – historically we have always had public comment on subject matters on the agenda. This will be the first time that I have ever seen this. Mr. Taylor stated sir, this is not the public comment period. I am in agreement that there should be a portion of the meeting for public comment. I can’t speak to the history but I can tell you that the agenda is compliant with the law.

Moved by Mr. Nufrio, seconded by Mrs. Richardson, that Nancy Minneci be nominated for the Office of President.

Mr. Brennan called for other nominations

Moved by Mrs. Ruiz, seconded by Dr. Morgan, that Ronnie McDowell be nominated for the Office of President.

Mr. Taylor asked are there any other nominations? No other nominations.

Mr. Brennan stated the floor is closed for nominations. Mrs. Minneci was nominated first and we will vote and see how that plays out. If need be we will go around with the second nomination which is Mr. McDowell.

Mr. Taylor stated just to clarify because you referenced the first role for the candidate who was nominated first. If that candidate receives a majority of the members present voting, she would in this instance would take the seat as president of the board of education. If that vote fails for some reason, then you will move on to the second candidate. If the first vote gets the votes required, she becomes president.

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Minneci for President

AYES: Mrs. Higgins, Mrs. Minneci, Mr. Nufrio, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Williams  
NAYES: Mr. McDowell, Dr. Morgan, Mrs. Regis-Darby, Mrs. Ruiz  
ABSTAIN: None MOTION CARRIED

Board members stated that Mrs. Williams couldn't vote because she is not at meeting. Mr. Taylor stated we are in the middle of the roll call. The appropriate time for questions would have been before the vote. The motion was seconded so the comments are out of order at this time. But I will say that there is nothing in your board policy, there is nothing in the law, that prohibits a member from participating in a meeting by phone. My legal opinion is yes. Mrs. Regis-Darby asked what policy is that? Mr. Taylor stated I just indicated it is not in policy but there is nothing in the law that prohibits a board member from participating in a meeting by phone. Mr. Brennan I believe the vote was successful. Mrs. Minneci is now the chair; you can assume the seat of the chair and proceed with the governance of the meeting.

Mrs. Minneci assumed the chair as President.

#### VICE PRESIDENT

Mrs. Minneci called for nominations for the Office of Vice President

Moved by Dr. Morgan, seconded by Mrs. Ruiz, that Ronnie McDowell be nominated for the Office of Vice President.

Mr. Nufrio nominated Mary Lynn Williams. Mrs. Regis-Darby asked how can you nominate someone that is not even present. Is this the time for questions? Mr. Taylor stated since you are requiring a second, the proper time for questions would be after there is a second on a motion. It has been moved, is there a second? If there isn't a second, it doesn't get on the floor so need to answer any questions. Hearing no second, we can move on.

Mrs. Regis-Darby stated I have a question is it time for my question? Mr. Taylor stated if it is about the nomination of the person who was nominated – Mrs. Williams for vice president, her nomination was not seconded so it would not be an appropriate time for questions about her nomination.

Mrs. Regis-Darby stated I have a question and it is not about Mrs. Williams. Mr. Taylor stated the issue on the floor right now is the nomination for vice president. The individual candidate who is on the ballot for a lack of a better term is Mr. McDowell. If your question is about Mr. McDowell then yes you can ask the question or if it is about the process of voting for the vice presidency than yes you can ask a question about that issue.

Mrs. Regis Darby stated my question is I believe when you started reading the statement you said that somebody has to be present – I just want to make sure that is what you said or Mr. Brennan said when he made his statement. Mr. Taylor stated what I said was pursuant to Robert's Rules of Order – it terms of tallying the votes – since there is nothing in the law, any statute or nothing in your policy or bylaws that reference a majority of the full membership of the body and/or a heightened majority – whether it be 2/3 which is called a super majority that

when there is no specification of a number of votes required under the law, Robert's Rules of Order specifies that the prevailing vote would be to the majority of members present and voting. There is no definition of "present"; however, due to technology in this day and age people can participate electronically in meetings. Dr. Morgan stated she needs to be here she does not vote if she is not here. Mrs. Regis-Darby stated how do you know it's her. I'm here for the kids of Union. Mr. Taylor stated my understanding is that the Board member had a death in the family and I'm not arguing with you. All I'm saying is my legal opinion is that a member can participate in a board of education meeting via an electronic means of communication. That is what I'm saying.

Mr. McDowell stated it is very important for us this year to get off on a good start. This is not it I'm sorry to say. I think we can do better than this. I understand my colleagues' questions and I think they are very valid but I think at this point it is really just a moot point. It is time to move on.

Mrs. Ruiz stated for purposes of clarity – you stated that our policy does not speak to remote voting or how we can vote. Mr. Taylor stated what I stated was that there was nothing in your policy or the law that prohibits a Board member from participating in a board of education meeting via electronic means. I have been practicing law for about 20 years and from my practice and my experience, I have seen it done on dozens of occasions where board members participate in a meeting – public and/or executive session via telephone. You had a question raise as to the identity of the individual on the phone. You had your Board Secretary call the individual. Mr. Brennan the number you called was it the number for Mrs. Williams. Mr. Brennan stated yes. Mr. Taylor stated the voice that we all heard is that Mrs. Williams on the phone – we can confirm. There has been a question raised but there is nothing to suspect that it is not Mrs. Williams on the phone and since we have her on the phone you can ask her whatever questions you want to verify her identify.

Mrs. Ruiz stated my question is more towards the issue of about the policy because if our policy in fact speaks to the ability for Board members to participate remotely and it is silent as to whether or not the Board member can vote remotely then my concern is that we are broadening a policy without a vote on that particular policy and according to the NJSBA if a Board wants Board members to be able to vote remotely then they have to draft a policy that specifically sets up the guidelines for the Board member to vote remotely and since we don't have those guidelines in place and our policy is silence with, then my position is the silence means we don't want remote voting.

Mr. Taylor stated all I will say to that point is you have a majority of members here this evening who want a remote vote because they participated in that process. I'm speaking to the Board right now not the public with all due respect and I'm trying to answer legal questions. As I stated in my initial comments, your policy is silent so there was no attempt to hide that fact. Since it is silent I am saying there is nothing that says it can't occur. Number 2 – if you want to talk about what the policy says – we just followed a procedure to vote for the president. You have motion to open nominations, you had a second – you had a vote to open nominations – you had two individuals who were nominated and those individuals require a second – it is a policy that we all follow right – guess what your bylaw does not set forth that policy, it is silent on that

so to follow all of your logic, you couldn't even have a president right now because your bylaw #9121 is silent on that part. All I'm saying is that just like there is nothing that prohibited from voting for in that process, you just decided to for president, there is nothing in the law that prohibits a board member from participating on the phone electronically. Mrs. Ruiz stated counsel I'm going to respectfully disagree because I think that when we nominate and we second we are following Robert's Rules not the policy but when we are creating new rules by saying members can now vote remotely we are in affect amending and/or creating a new policy and that I think is a clear distinction here. To follow Robert's Rules is protocol for a board, I think, to amend up in the air on a whim right now, a policy because it is silent to a specific and in my opinion critical issue, is I think frankly unfair to the Board and to the people of our Township. This policy affects our students by us picking who is going to be the leader of the Board. I think if it is silent and it has never been done before counsel we know precedent usually is standard. Mr. Taylor stated I don't know if it has or hasn't. Mrs. Ruiz stated I think we need to be very careful not to just on a whim decide that we are going to verbally amend the policy and just run with it when the policy is silent to it and the NJSBA clearly says that if you want to be able to vote remotely, the board has to create guidelines in the policy to be able to vote remotely and we haven't done that. This Board has never done that.

Mr. Taylor stated you can proceed you have a motion on the table.

Mrs. Minneci stated there was no second for Mrs. Williams so we are voting on Mr. McDowell.

ROLL CALL: Mr. McDowell for Vice President

AYES: Mrs. Higgins, Mr. McDowell, Dr. Morgan, Mr. Nufrio, Mrs. Regis-Darby, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Ruiz, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Minneci

NAYES: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Mrs. Minneci stated we have a unanimous vote - congratulations Mr. McDowell.

Mr. Taylor stated that the cameras need to be rebooted – so you can take a three-minute break.

Mrs. Minneci stated we have a couple of procedures that we have to approve tonight.

MEETING NIGHTS

Moved by Mr. McDowell, seconded by Mr. Nufrio, that the schedule of committee meetings, work sessions and regular meetings be adopted in accordance with the schedule, in the hands of each board member; 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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mrs. Higgins, Mr. McDowell, Dr. Morgan, Mr. Nufrio, Mrs. Regis-Darby, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Ruiz, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Minneci  
NAYES: None  
ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

POLICY MANUAL

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

DISCUSSION:

None

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mrs. Higgins, Mr. Nufrio, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Minneci  
NAYES: Mrs. Regis-Darby, Mrs. Ruiz  
ABSTAIN: Mr. McDowell, Dr. Morgan

MOTION CARRIED

DESIGNATE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS

Moved by Mrs. Ruiz, seconded by Mr. Nufrio, that the Board adopt the formal resolution in the hands of each board member 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 \$60 for 2019.

DISCUSSION:

None

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mrs. Higgins, Mr. McDowell, Dr. Morgan, Mr. Nufrio, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Ruiz, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Minneci  
NAYES: None  
ABSTAIN: Mrs. Regis-Darby

MOTION CARRIED

DESIGNATE INTERNET WEBSITE FOR OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION

Moved by Dr. Morgan, seconded by Mr. McDowell, that the Board adopt formal resolution designating the Township of Union Board of Education's internet website ([www.twpunionschools.org](http://www.twpunionschools.org)) for official notification pursuant to the New Jersey local unit pay-to-play law, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

DISCUSSION:

None

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mrs. Higgins, Mr. McDowell, Dr. Morgan, Mr. Nufrio, Mrs. Regis-Darby, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Ruiz, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Minneci  
 NAYES: None  
 ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

DESIGNATE DEPOSITORIES FOR FUNDS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF UNION BOARD OF EDUCATION (School Activity Funds)

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

DISCUSSION:

None

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mrs. Higgins, Mr. McDowell, Dr. Morgan, Mr. Nufrio, Mrs. Regis-Darby, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Ruiz, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Minneci  
 NAYES: None  
 ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

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

Moved by Mrs. Richardson, seconded by Mrs. Regis-Darby, 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 appended to the minutes.

DISCUSSION:

None

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mrs. Higgins, Mr. McDowell, Dr. Morgan, Mr. Nufrio, Mrs. Regis-Darby, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Ruiz, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Minneci  
 NAYES: None  
 ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

**I. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Mr. Tatum stated I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new Board members to the Township of Union Board of Education – Dr. Morgan and Mrs. Ruiz – welcome and I would like to say this once again Mr. McDowell, welcome home, it is nice to have you back. In previous years we have accomplished so much through your dedication and leadership and I'm looking forward to this Board becoming a lot more cohesive and being able to start to take this District back in the direction that we were going over the previous years. I think it is time for us to start putting our children first, it is time to start really thinking on how this District should move and where we are going and we have to map out a plan and start to follow it. That is the commitment that I'm going to call and ask everyone on this dais tonight to commit as Board members and members of our administration. We have to be cohesive collectively and do the job that we are here for – the students and for families of this District. Thank you very much.

**J. NEW BUSINESS:**

Mrs. Minneci stated I would like to take the opportunity to welcome Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Ruiz and Dr. Morgan to the Board. I hope we can work well together and continue to move forward and I look forward to working with you. Welcome and thank you for committing to working on the Board.

**K. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

Jill Hall stated I would like to welcome Mr. McDowell, Dr. Morgan and Mrs. Ruiz – we look forward to having you all work together for our kids. Ann Margaret Shannon and Rich D'Avanzo had to leave and they asked me as a representative of the UTEA to also welcome the new members of the Board and to extend their good wishes for lots of good work to be done.

I would also like to go back to what Mr. McDowell said – it is very frustrating to come to these meetings for such a long time and see the behavior that we saw tonight which would not make our students proud and it is not what we are teaching them. It is time for us but if we don't like the rules, to change the rules in the most appropriate way but to behave as we are expected to behave – as mature adults. We all want the same thing – can we please just always remember that we are here for the exact same reason and we might want to go about it in a different way and it may not be from the same point of view but the end game is exactly the same for everybody sitting in this room – lay down the weapons – it is time to work together. We have serious work to do and we don't have any time to waste so I appeal to all of you – everyone – in front of me, behind me, at home – we have work to do – let's get at it. We are here to do the work for our kids nothing else is more important than that. Nothing personal, nothing political, nothing is more important to that and let's have at it.

Dr. Francis stated I would like to congratulate the new Board members and Mrs. Minneci as President and Mr. McDowell as Vice President. I am a former Board member and I think I can tell you what I feel about what goes on with the Board. Please don't self-appoint yourself as chair as personnel. With that being said don't put anyone that is conflicted as yourself, Mr. Nufrio and Mrs. Higgins on personnel either. Although it is not unethical it is putting you at risk for an ethical violation – things spoken about personnel matters when you have relatives that work in the District. The other things when it comes to personnel – I want members that are not

on the personnel committee – you guys need to know what goes on in personnel; whether you report minutes and pass them on to the other parties so they should know. I have been on this Board for six years and the last month I got off – found out that things were being done in this District. Two of you sat on this Board were conflicted had information about somethings that really the whole Board should have known about. Not that we are going to act because our job is not to act, it is the Superintendent and administration to act, but it is something that we should know about and for me to hear some disturbing about employees in the District about something that is going on and I hadn't had the foggiest idea what they were talking about – things that happened in the District, it is upsetting to me. I want you guys, if you are not on personnel, to find out what goes on in personnel. Remember personnel is not a legislative body, it is just a group that is supposed to bring the information to the full Board for consideration.

The last thing, Mr. Tatum, and this is why I disagree with Ms. Hall only for this point, we do need to work together and get things done, it is a short term – what the issue really is Mr. Tatum is you need to take charge – hold people accountable and that includes Board members. When things are unethical, you need to write them up and file with the State. I am serious. I am tired of trying to be friends with everybody – “kumbyya” when we know some of you guys are stabbing each other in the back. It is not about the kids, it is about yourself and some political agenda that you are trying to uphold or run. Those are the things that I don't like. I don't want to pretend those things doesn't happen – it happens and it pisses me off as a father who has children in this District. I am tired of trying to be politically nice. I don't want to play nice any more. I want to do what is right. I just hope you guys hold every Board member accountable for what they do. I mean it. Thank you. That goes for you too Lester – hold him accountable. Mr. Taylor stated thank you that is what I ask – I appreciate it.

Darren Martin stated I want to congratulate Dr. Morgan, Mrs. Ruiz and my brother McDowell and for you for being president. This whole thing is interesting. I sat over there and watched this. I know Mr. Taylor when he was the Mayor of East Orange. If you guys don't have past practices, if you want to take it legal, which some people know about as well. I have some 20 years of experience for legal stuff too. If there are no past practices in this District in doing any voting or business by phone, you can't just decide to pull it out and do it. You guys have to be very careful that you open yourself up for charges. I am going to make sure they challenge that. If it wasn't done before it can't be done now.

Union High School – food in the school – outside we cannot tell the students they can't bring food into schools if the staff and everybody else is bringing food in. Let's be consistent and keep everybody on the same playing field. That is a very dangerous road.

Also in Union High School – cell phone use. We can't lay the gauntlet down and the hammer down on the students if we got adults walking around with their phones. We have to be very careful about the playing field not being even. If it is not even it is not cool.

Last point and everyone in New Jersey who has been fighting about the silly PARCC test and I never allowed my kids to take it – I'm hoping one day District will grow a back bone and don't do everything the State tells them to do because Christi had that intention with this PARC crap and other people did as well – from democrats and republicans – they are all in the same

pocket. It was horrible; it went against something that was already in place for 11<sup>th</sup> graders to take the test and now just like we do we filed a lawsuit and we are party to the lawsuit, we won and they got 30 days to appeal but PARCC is going to be gone and I told people that was going to happen and I'm so glad it happened. At some point we can't listen to Governor Murphy or whoever it is, you can't listen to everything the State says because a couple of you guys have said although we always do it in this District, it is about the kids and their families.

Jeffrey Monge stated congratulations to the new Board members and congratulations to Mrs. Minneci and Mr. McDowell.

Historically we have had an opportunity to actually have comments from the public prior to agenda items. It wasn't done. I brought it to Mr. Taylor's attention and he says nothing prohibits and the thing is the population here in Union voted Board members to the Board of Education to run the Board of Education. No disrespect to Mr. Taylor or Mr. Griggs beforehand, they didn't vote lawyers to run our District. Please step up and talk and don't hang your hats on the attorneys all the time.

This is what I was going to actually read prior to but I might as well read it. My hope was maybe going forward we shouldn't have conflicted presidents and vice presidents as they inherit unnecessary risks for potential ethics violations to the Board of Education. We actually have had clear evidence of that this past year. Whatever decisions are made tonight or there should be no form of retribution to these individual votes – that happened last year. Committee votes should be based on knowledge of the subject matters not based on who voted for who or based on politics. It should be what is best for the District.

I want to read something – looking at the policy and I appreciate that Mr. Taylor had the policy in front of him – didn't take an opportunity to read it but I will read it – it is voting methods – 9325.4 before I read this the precedence of this Board is you can call in to hear but you could not be able to vote. It happened to me, Mr. Nufrio who is sitting here and saw this happening, it happened with Mrs. Zuena as well from my recollection.

I'm reading the first paragraph. "Official action may be taken only at a regular monthly or special meeting at which a quorum is present. All motions shall require for adoption a majority vote of those present." You can read the rest of it. Present – not on the phone, not present here, present and the precedence again is that we were told that we could not vote over the phone. Why would we come to meetings? We could all be on the phone.

Planning for the budget – I know we have had some workshops that were developed when I was on here and Mr. Brennan had put together. I think the dates were supposed to be for September and October and I think you need to do those now. I think you need to do that January/February. You have new Board members and old members that are not familiar with budget preparation. I dove into that process and I was by myself at many meetings. You all need to get yourselves prepared and also hold the business office accountable and the superintendent accountable as far as providing updates along the way. You aren't able to actually have requests for department heads to express their budgets and what their approach was as special services is one that is always talked about so I suggest that you have them come in.

RFP schedule – you are behind schedule you need to get up to schedule – food services are to be put up in January/February and I hope that happens.

As far as committees are concerned, you can't have people on two different committees that are meeting at the same time. During the budget process I was having finance committee members pulled out of the meeting and many times I would sit there with Mr. Brennan by myself so my committee of one was not my decision.

Chasity Santana stated I am going to speak from the heart and I hope everybody out there on the TV and everybody behind me we are all adults and this is going to be a "Rated R" conversation. Please remember this – the only thing fake on me are my breasts and my nose. Everything else after that is always you will get real. I had a very emotional holiday because in this past holiday season the schools, as everybody knows, everybody here are mandated reporters. As mandated reporters they feel that they can call DCPP and I did a lot of research on that and usually and please look it up – with schools and districts call DCPP they usually report on minorities or low income families but I always see myself as the sacrificial lamb. When I'm given a mountain, I will move it. As everybody behind there, schools, district – they hold me accountable as a parent – I in turn will hold everyone accountable from the janitor to the principal to you Tatum. With all that being said that I hang my dirty laundry out there and trust me if anybody wants to speak on it, I can speak for days. I think when we do things that are not in the best interest of the children that will always rise to my attention and make my blood boil and I will not be as nice or as nice as Mr. McDowell or politically correct. I'm here to tell you that from anybody, any school that I walk into, I'm telling you right now when I ring that bell I will have my passport, my license and everything else that you need – you better open that door for me and you better answer my questions and I am tired of things being hidden or people making it seem like I'm looking for something that is wrong. I as a parent – I know my job I do it well and I'm never scared. I told DCPP I have seven children and know what I suggest you do, I suggest you open a department just for me – name it "Chasity" – I would love it. Come as often as you want because I have food, I have gas, I have anything that you need and my children are always and will be taken care of and on top of that my house if anybody knows it, I'm the neighborhood babysitter. Everybody drops their kids off and I drop them at school and I do extracurricular. I am the "in case of emergency" for many children and I love it. All I'm saying is when you are here think about our children because when we are talking and setting precedence on things – Robert's Rules were invented in 1876 – trust me they weren't thinking of things like phones, emails or Skyping. Trust me there is nothing in Robert's Rules that have anything to do with voting over a phone – I can guarantee you that. Please let's set policy correctly. Mrs. Minneci it is not personal. If we are going to do things we need to do them right because if everyone here holds me accountable for what I do, I will hold everybody else accountable for what they do. Thank you for taking the position with Mrs. Minneci. I will be here other than death and the first one because when I drop my kids off this is my downtime. I love being here. Mr. McDowell I look forward to working with you. Everyone else I have always looked forward to working with you. I have no favorites and I play no favorites. I love everyone from Nellis to you Mrs. Ruiz. Thank you.

Nancy Zuena stated it is funny sitting on this side talking; being on both sides of the table is a little bit different – you can really say what you really want. Mr. Monge read our policy that states that a Board member needs to be present to vote. I was on the Board for three years. I called into probably 2-3 meetings – if I couldn’t attend, I always attended the meeting by phone. I was never allowed to vote. I could listen and I was never allowed to vote – it was just like it was stated there – you need to be present. How is that allowed that we voted with somebody over the telephone when they were not present – that is the answer that I would like. We broke rules. We broke our own policy tonight. How is the meeting valid if we broke our own policy? Who could answer that? You have the policy, you can read it for all of us if you like. It is in black and white that they need to be present.

Mr. Taylor stated I want to direct my comment to the chair. Pursuant to the law of public comment period – it is just that – it is a public comment. Mrs. Zuena stated I don’t need an answer tonight. I would like an answer in the future. I have been on the Board I know the rules and there doesn’t need to be an answer tonight but I would like an answer pretty soon because I think this meeting should be totally void because this is against our own policy. I do look forward to working with you all. I will be at the meetings. I’m happy for Mrs. Minneci that you are the president, Ronnie I can do a cartwheel for you because you are my partner and I love you to the moon and back and welcome Kim and Kalisha and hopefully we will have a very productive year.

Ian stated that we have some of the youth present here and they learn not just from what we say but from what we do as we continue to work together moving forward so that they understand how we can communicate and disagree and have conflict resolution and how we can do that and perform. I am happy to be here and I will be coming here to all of the meetings. I may disagree with the gentleman that spoke before, respectfully, it is not always like Simon’s video on You Tube that has about two million views and talks about millennials in the workplace regarding the children being able to do what the adults do not necessarily the case because we are not properly preparing them to be in a work place that they don’t understand or know. I respectfully disagree – no you can’t use the phone but maybe I can – whatever. Just something as a point of reference and I want to make that point. I’m looking forward to the board and coming out here. Just keep in mind that our children are watching. Thank you.

L. MOTION TO ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the Board, it was moved by Mr. Nufrio, seconded by Dr. Morgan, that the meeting be adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

AYES: Mrs. Higgins, Mr. McDowell, Dr. Morgan, Mr. Nufrio, Mrs. Regis-Darby, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Ruiz, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Minneci

NAYES: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

GREGORY BRENNAN  
BOARD SECRETARY