

TOWNSHIP OF UNION BOARD OF EDUCATION  
WORKSESSION MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 11, 2018

NOTICE OF MEETING:

The worksession meeting was held at the Administration Building, 2369 Morris Avenue, Union, New Jersey at 7:00 p.m. on September 11, 2018. Action was taken.

Mr. Nufrio called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:

Mr. David Arminio, Dr. Guy Francis, Mrs. Sherry Higgins, Mrs. Nancy Minneci, Mr. Jeffrey Monge, Mrs. Nellis Regis-Darby, Mrs. Linda Richardson, Mr. Vito Nufrio

ABSENT AT ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Williams (arrived at 7:50 p.m.)

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Mr. Gregory Tatum, Mrs. Annie Moses, Mr. Gerry Benaquista, Mrs. Kim Conti, Mr. Barry Loessel, Mrs. Ann Hart, Mrs. Sandra Paul, Mr. Craig Wojcik

ALSO PRESENT:

Mr. Paul Griggs, Esq.

Mrs. Minneci led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Nufrio asked for a moment of silence for 911 remembrances.

Mr. Nufrio stated thank you all and I think what is important to remember – we remember the horrors of that day and I clearly do remember and I think most of you can recall where you were – I was in my office helping students at the time. What is important is to remember each year how strong this country is; that proved the strength of this country. We were resilient, our economy got impacted but it didn't go down. It came back and here we are today with a very strong economy; still facing the possibilities of tragic events like that and we pray to God that we don't have another – that is really important to remember that the United States is a strong nation and strong will that when tragedy strikes and horrors that occur like that, as horrific as they may be, we seem to bounce back and we have to be thankful for that and just pray that nothing like that happens again. Thank you all.

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

Mr. Monge read the District's Mission Statement.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON RESOLUTIONS IN BOLD:

Mrs. Lipstein stated the regular meeting is scheduled on Yom Kippur – the highest Holy day of Jewish holidays and asked that next time the schedule is prepared to look at all holidays.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Approval of minutes will be next week.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

There is a request from the League of Women Voters and personnel leaves and resignations.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

Mr. Tatum stated the violence and vandalism will be presented next week because numbers have to be designated for a particular time period. All other items listed on the agenda were moved to the September 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Mr. Nufrio mentioned 911 today and one of the things that we requested of all of our buildings was to make sure that there were activities that commemorate the 911 tragedies. I will talk next week about those activities and also talk about the opening of schools which was fairly smooth this year. I will talk about enrollment and class size – all the normal things that I talk about at the beginning of the school year.

There is another piece that we will talk about tonight and I will defer to Ann Hart who is going to present information about electronic forms that we now have online. She will give you an update on where we are.

Ann Hart stated I created and uploaded all of the forms that are districtwide to all the students that have access. If that school had a particular form, we will add that on next year but for now we have the 5-6 forms that go districtwide.

It went pretty well and most people filled them out. We were able to add a lot of parent portal accounts because now we can do the report cards the same way. For stats, in June we had 4,944 accounts; we now have over 5,700. We created about 760 new accounts over the summer. Each one is done individually to make sure you are linking a kid with someone who has permission to view their status and we had over 2,000 students added to an account. Some people only had their high school kid on there so we added their middle schooler or elementary student.

We have a little over 80% of students have a parent account linked to them. Of that 80% which is about 5700 – 86% of those did complete the forms. Right now, in-district students there is less than 1200 students with no portal account at all – 97% of the high school kids have a parent portal account; 89% of the middle schools; 86% at Jefferson – so our weakness is in the elementary because the kindergarten and pre-k kids didn't get the accounts yet – that is at 67%.

I think it went well. We got a lot of phone calls and questions but it was easy to figure out for the parents.

Mr. Tatum stated that was one of our goals last year to get this underway. It is refreshing to hear that we are making progress. We aren't 100% but we are certainly moving down the

path. It has been a cry from parents for quite a while for us to get some of those forms and stuff like that online to make the District a little more efficient in terms of filling out those packets.

Mrs. Hart stated everything they fill out, it links into their Genesis account; the parents can update but they can't delete any guardian information but they can add, delete or change emergency contact. They can add in babysitters who pick up students. All the information links to the students' record. I'm working with the principals to set up a set of directions that they can print out – who filled them out; anything that is really important – that they get a Chromebook, they signed off, no picture release, things like that and it makes a little icon so the teacher when she pulls up the class list she can see who signed the Chromebook, who has a picture release, who can go on the internet, more importantly who cannot go on the internet.

Mrs. Regis-Darby asked is there a reason why at the high school the health forms were sent home. Ms. Hart stated we talked about this before that the nurses are very reluctant to give up their book of information. Mr. Benaquista stated we discussed it with Mrs. Ionta once the forms were sent out; it wasn't right to get the information we needed back. A lot of times it calls for doctor's orders, administering certain things in school, it needs to be worked on a little bit longer and then we can get it right for next year. We are going to come back to the table – Mrs. Ionta, myself, Mrs. Hart. We weren't just there yet for that form; there is a lot of liability in that form. We want to make sure about access and HPPA and there is a lot of things with that one specific area that next year we will get it electronic.

Mrs. Regis-Darby stated maybe a clarity phone call should go to the parents because the parents have a lot of questions. Just a clarity to let them know that this is why it went out.

Mr. Monge asked wasn't it on? Mr. Benaquista stated it was on originally but we need the hard copy because there was still a lot of things – one, who is sending doctor orders? Mrs. Hart stated it was more on the form, when it said do you have a severe allergies – yes or no and if you said yes, write what they are. I didn't make it a required question. I thought if they did they would write yes and if they don't have it what's the difference. Apparently that is not correct. I have to make those questions required so that was one of the big issues. Mrs. Regis-Darby stated the one with the aspirin/Tylenol at the bottom. Mrs. Hart stated that is only for the high school. I am going to do a separate form for them. That is not a required form, that would be a form that says I want him to take it.

Mr. Monge stated early on we talked about electronic forms when we created a Technology Committee and from that time we talked about one form and here we are – you have done a fantastic job. Mrs. Hart stated thank you. Mr. Monge asked where are these paper forms going? Mr. Benaquista stated the health forms are not supposed to be there out in the public so it should just be with the nurses and if the parent checks off they would like that information shared, there is something on that form to allow that, but if it is not, it supposed to be kept with the nurse. Mrs. Regis-Darby stated if you check the box that says teacher has access, then the "i" will pop up to say that the teacher can view. If it doesn't pop up only the nurses have access to that particular data. Mr. Benaquista stated we want to make sure all those things are worked out.

Mr. Monge stated one nurse thought there was an issue with the information that they were holding and that it would differ from Genesis; so which is the latest information? Mr. Benaquista stated before we used forms, the most accurate information was those health cards. Every year the health cards have to be updated. I think now that we are going online, I think a lot of things will change and all the information is going to be accurate. Before I believe some forms came back and they were just filled out by students. Now they have to create their own account. Mrs. Hart stated we separated the parents from the students. But what I think Jeff is asking, the nurses send out this form, are they going to check Genesis to make sure it is updated. We should tell them that they should. Mr. Benaquista stated they can't go through every student – we will talk about it.

Mr. Monge stated the forms can be downloaded from Genesis, pre-filled out with the information. Mrs. Hart stated Jeff you are talking about the emergency card, which is what we used to send home but this is the nurses form and that is different.

#### EDUCATION/STUDENT DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS:

Mrs. Regis Darby stated the Education Committee met with some of the school building principals today to look at the Code of Conduct and it is being sent back to the school building to look at it again.

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

#### DISCUSSION:

None

#### FISCAL AND PLANNING COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS:

Mr. Monge presented the Fiscal and Planning Committee agenda.

#### DISCUSSION:

Mr. Monge stated as part of our discussion items, we did talk about the capital projects to date and I think the back of our agenda, Barry put together a presentation of the projects that we have accomplished to date. Over the last couple of months, I discussed the lack of capital that we have in capital projects and for future projects we should spend everything in one shot and we are not doing that and we are about \$700,000 that we have remaining and we spent about \$700,000. The discussion is that there is no way that the \$700,000 is going to be enough for capital projects in this District when we have millions of dollars that we need to do in this District based on our long-range facility plan. The guy said that they are going to come back to us with an action plan on trying to put together a financial plan for funding projects going forward. The feedback we received, you can't save enough money on an annual basis to fund them and bond financing is a possibility and Barry talked about it through ESIP financing – energy savings improvement plan and there are State benefits that come along with that. Hopefully we will be able to get a comprehensive plan for the Board to review and hopefully finance some projects going forward. I stated many times over, there is definitely not a lot of capital there.

The other thing that we talked about is the banking services – RFP results. Also at the last meeting we discussed the process for future RFP/RFQ review which is very similar to the nature we did two years ago. That was supposed to go to Mr. Brennan for review/comment and then come back to committee and the Board. I think there was a misunderstanding with Mr. Nufrio, I'm assuming he wanted Mr. Griggs to be part of this, that this is about process for RFP/RFQs. The last thing that we had here we were going to do just this and that process didn't happen; my understanding is Mr. Nufrio had an issue with it and made that clear to Mr. Brennan so it didn't happen. Now that we have clarity, I'm hoping you will be able to take a look at what the committee had recommended, review it, present it to Mr. Tatum and then for it to come back to the Board. I don't know if anyone has an issue with it. Mr. Nufrio is that clear to you. Mr. Nufrio stated I don't know what you are talking about. I understood for the future there would be a review of the process but at the same time it seems like you were trying to change the current process. If that is a misunderstanding on my part, then I'm wrong. But we did agree that this will be something that will be reviewed in conjunction with Mr. Tatum to see how this process can be modified, improved upon but that is it.

Mr. Monge stated let me offer clarity. Mr. Nufrio stated I just did. Mr. Monge stated I'm offering you clarity because you are misstating what I just said. The Committee came up with steps. The committee came up with a process. Here is the recommendation and I actually went over it in one meeting and we submitted it again in an email to Mr. Brennan to review that, have comments, edit as necessary, present it to Mr. Tatum and then to come back to the Board; that was the discussion. We can go back to the minutes, recording or whatever you want to do. What I also made very clear and Mr. Griggs you didn't dispute this, that the President can't create the process unilaterally as it pertains to RFP's and RFQ's. The President does have the ability to select committee members but does not have the authority to create the process unilaterally without the Board. As it pertains to the process that is in place, that is a process you created and to that end when we talk about the banking services, we actually went through those results and at least what came out of committee which at that point it was Ms. Higgins, Ms. Richardson and I and Barry, Manny and Mr. Brennan – we thought that there were three candidates – two were the top two results and the third being ConnectOne, our current group, and that there were questions that needed to be raised because we didn't have answers to and we thought it would be best as a recommendation to the Board, that it would be best that we have a conference call or meeting with those three groups, ask questions, clarifications – to be able to allow the Business Office to have the best information possible and to make a recommendation for banking services. Rather than having three groups come and spend a couple of hours in a public meeting that hadn't gone well in the past to go and present without having all the information in front of them. It would be a benefit to the Board and definitely a benefit to the public; so that is the recommendation that came out of committee and I wanted to make sure Mr. Tatum, Mr. Nufrio, that it was o.k. I don't know how you go about doing that. In the past we came out of committee and people respected the committees and the Business Office recommendation. I just wanted to make sure that is o.k. so that we can take it off of them doing it in a public session. We can have the questions put together and then let the Business Office make a recommendation based on that information. Any issues with that? Mr. Nufrio stated I have plenty of issues but I'm not going to elaborate on that right now.

Mrs. Minneci stated with all that then the information goes to Mr. Brennan and he makes his recommendation to us and then we decide. I think that is the right thing to do. The recommendation to come from him and then we vote on it.

#### GRIEVANCE/NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE:

Mr. Arminio presented the Grievance/Negotiations Committee agenda.

#### DISCUSSION:

Mr. Arminio stated I assume that our attorney has looked over the information and Mr. Brennan looked it over. Mr. Griggs stated I did. Mr. Arminio stated we are looking to have it approved and anything else I have to say I will say in executive session.

#### OPERATIONS COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS:

Mrs. Richardson presented the Operations Committee agenda.

#### DISCUSSION:

Mr. Monge asked why don't we have on our agenda for next week voting on banking services and legal services? Mr. Brennan stated we can have it on there. What is the consensus with the Board? Mrs. Regis-Darby stated it should be on there. Mr. Brennan stated we are armed with the information, I would think we can make a decision on Tuesday night.

Mrs. Richardson stated you will review the banking recommendations again; legal services recommendations were made already? Mr. Monge stated they are presenting next week as well. We have three – but we are supposed to be voting. Can we have that on the agenda? Mr. Nufrio stated I'm sure that is doable. We already discussed this in the agenda review. Mr. Tatum stated correct. If I understand correctly, after the presentations were made there would be a recommendation made and then the Board would vote on those recommendations for next week.

Mr. Arminio stated in O-2 – rental fee schedule. I know we talked a little bit back and forth. I looked at it but I would like some more information if the Business Office can supply it. When we charge a group to come in, do we make a profit? For instance, custodial fee is \$90 an hour. Is there a profit? Are we making money on it? And how much? And some other things – the usage fees? Mr. Brennan stated miscellaneous revenue. Mr. Arminio asked how much do we make on the top tier rental? Mr. Loessel stated about \$3-\$4,000. It is outside groups that we charge that kind of money – like dance groups not from the Town and we do make money on the custodial – about \$60 an hour and also security. The only thing we don't make money is on the police. Mr. Arminio stated I have no problem with the rental fee as stated; however, I still have a problem with the process of who is qualified and who determines where the group belongs. We still have a concern about that. Mr. Brennan stated in Operations Mr. Monge was bringing up the number of people as well – attending an event. What does that security wise? You had some examples that you were going to send to my office. Mr. Monge stated we said we were going to open this up to everybody here. There are examples that are out there and I was given the example of a site that we have and based on going on SchoolDude – based on your event, you are able to figure out how much money you are going to pay – security, maintenance, how many people and that comes out versus a subjective approach. Mrs. Minneci stated so a formula that

they use. Mr. Monge stated yes. You can't charge somebody that has five people the same as somebody who has 200 people. Who makes that determination whether there is a police officer or security guard, maintenance – so that was the hope and I would offer you what I had. I'm sure there are other schools that do this. Mr. Brennan stated that is what I was saying, we should reach out and see what other schools are doing. I believe they can also upload the insurance binder you are required and things of that nature. Mrs. Regis-Darby stated some schools charge way more than this. Mr. Arminio stated that is to keep people from renting it at all.

Mr. Nufrio stated Mr. Loessel I really don't think your estimation of how much we make is on point. I think it is possibly overestimated. It seems like a lot of money. Before the public gets any notion that we are a for profit organization, which we are not, those numbers need to be checked. Mr. Tatum stated maybe we can go back and review what people have paid and take a look at the profit margin, if any. Then we can have a baseline of what it actually is. Right now we are estimating and I think the number sounds a little high. I may be completely wrong. I want more certainty than estimating.

Mrs. Richardson stated we also talked about a security deposit prior to the event. Mr. Nufrio stated that was discussed as well. Mrs. Richardson stated I know Mr. Loessel said he likes to keep it within the community. Mr. Nufrio stated they pay upfront. Mrs. Richardson stated with a security deposit, if they damage something, then you have that money. Mr. Nufrio stated the Board needs to decide what we put in place – have a deposit or pay up front? I would say pay up front. Mrs. Minneci stated I think you need a security deposit just in case there is some damage. Mr. Nufrio stated you mean in addition to. Mrs. Minneci stated so then they would get that back if there is no damage. Mr. Nufrio stated and determined by percentage.

Mrs. Richardson stated this is based on 400 people attending an event. I don't know if this works or not – one security person with 400 people? Mr. Loessel stated whenever we have 400 or more people, we require a police officer, a fireman, security guard and two custodians. Mr. Nufrio asked is it possible to further refine this schedule. Mr. Loessel stated we can, we have the policy right here but it is very vague. We will do that. Me and Mr. Brennan are going to sit down and we will put it on the computer so if anybody wants to rent out they can just go right to the computer.

Mrs. Richardson stated attached to the Class 0 – there is an application for free use so which defines who exactly is entitled to have free use – to keep it clear. Mr. Nufrio stated I suggested that we set up a tier in terms of the criteria that even the government uses to ascertain who is charitable and who is not or degree of charitable. Mr. Loessel stated I get it, it has been around a long time. We will fix it.

Dr. Francis asked are we removing O-2. Mr. Nufrio stated we are not voting on it tonight so let's see what Mr. Loessel recommends back to Mr. Brennan because if he feels he needs more time. Can you have something by next week? Mr. Loessel stated I'm sure we could. Mr. Nufrio stated if you need more time, we can review that.

DISCUSSION ITEM:

1. Letter from League of Women Voters requesting the use of Union High School Library from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Monday, October 22, 2018 for the Union Board of Education Candidates Night Forum and Debate (Certificate of Insurance provided).

Mrs. Williams arrived at 7:50 p.m.

The discussion item will be put on next week. It is a yearly event. I just wanted to point out publicly to them – thank you for adhering to my request to please consider not scheduling during the week of the school board’s convention which they very nicely complied last year and it looks like it is being renewed so thanks to League of Women Voters. This will afford those Board members that are not in Town to be able to attend.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS:

Mrs. Williams presented the Personnel Committee agenda.

DISCUSSION:

None

Moved by Mrs. Williams, seconded by Mrs. Minneci, that the following resolutions be adopted:

P-1. PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Personnel Actions be approved in accordance with the information in the hands of each Board member.

P-2. APPROVE SUBSTITUTE LISTS

Approve Substitute Lists for the 2018-2019 school year in accordance with the information in the hands of each Board.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Arminio asked if there had been any changes to P-1 since posted. Mr. Tatum stated there had not been any changes.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

POLICY COMMITTEE:

Mrs. Richardson presented the Policy Committee agenda.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Nufrio stated in the agenda review, it was determined that this is the final reading this will be put on for final resolution for next week and voted on next week.



**RESIDENCY COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS**

Mrs. Williams presented the Residency Committee agenda.

**DISCUSSION:**

None

**TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE:**

Mrs. Higgins stated we received a reimbursement of \$207,765 from e-rate which was paid for the 2017-2018 and it funded 60% of the elementary school infrastructure. Mrs. Paul stated it is based on free and reduce lunch numbers; we get that money from the federal government and it helps us to partially do what we need to do because we can't do anything fully for the elementary.

Mr. Nufrio stated where do the rest of the moneys go? Mrs. Paul stated it goes into general revenue. Mr. Nufrio asked can you disclose what the actual percentage is? Mrs. Paul stated 60% in free and reduced lunch. Mr. Brennan stated it is a reimbursement to the District. Mr. Tatum stated it is 60% of what we put out. I wanted to be clear because our free and reduced lunch is not 60%.

Mr. Monge stated when we approved this as a Board the last time, it was on the information that we were actually applying for the e-rate discount. This is a reimbursement. Mrs. Paul stated every year we do it and the federal government tells us what the guidelines are. The people on the Technology Committee have seen the criteria on how we come up with what we are going to apply. They have seen it. The rubric of how everything falls. It is not just one company we get several bids from different companies.

Mr. Monge stated the other part of the update that you provided as far as the phones – can you provide to the rest of the Board. Mrs. Paul stated what we did is, it is actually not just phones, so we actually formulated a security committee that is made up of several people that come here and we are looking at not just the telephones but a notification system. We met a couple of times and we had one vendor come out so far and spoke with us – Mr. Benaquista, myself and Mr. Ardito have gone for security training provided by the State. We are still in the middle of conversations on what we can do and we want to get one system by itself that doesn't speak to anything else. We want something that is all encompassing to be able to do notification to the police department, superintendent and whoever in the community needs to get it but also if there is anything else that needs to be done via email, text, that type of thing. Right now we are still in the process of working on it. It is not going to be an easy endeavor. I think Mr. Benaquista and I decided to take this year and do more research especially after the training.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

Bills will be approved next week.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Mr. Tatum stated in July 2018, the Board adopted a revised "Subscription Busing Policy" and I'm going to refer to the very last line – "permission from the chief school administrator to attend another school other than your assigned school with no transportation shall not be

available for subscription busing”. Subscription busing as you all know is a paid service that we provide for students on a space available basis. It is not something that is guaranteed. We currently have a family that is asking for subscription busing and I have not approved it based upon what I’m reading here in this policy. What disturbs me of this policy is that I have a child that needs a seat on the bus and we have a seat and we have a principal appealing to me to work with this family and two prior years I actually approved it and now I feel I cannot because this policy doesn’t give me the latitude to say yes and the seat is available and the person is willing to pay for it. I just want to know the feeling of the Board on this since this was just adopted last month – do we need to rethink this because right now we have a family in need that we can’t service.

Mr. Nufrio stated Mr. Tatum is correct. Even though this was already brought to his attention, I also received emails and phone calls from the parent detailing what had occurred and they are absolutely correct that the approval to attend a different school than was actually scheduled for was given by Mr. Tatum two years ago and for those two years that child was able to do subscription busing and that is based on free and reduced lunch. The exact amount I don’t know but the parent then was disturbed and shocked to be told last week that the child could not do subscription busing any longer so the child couldn’t even come to school that day because she had no means of bringing the child and it is quite a distance between her address and school. I quickly brought it to Mr. Brennan’s attention and since he oversees transportation, please bring it to Mr. Tatum which I already knew you knew about it. This policy is too finite and I think it warrants consideration especially in a situation where there should be a grandfather clause.

Mr. Tatum stated considering the enrollment this year, I think Kawameeh has gone up somewhat; prior to this year we had a space in the building we would allow a child to attend. However this year due to the budget situation we were required to put on more teachers beyond the people we already had in place; we have denied maybe 18-20 requests to attend that building. This is a request that I actually I had approved two years ago and in some cases those that were approved this year, they were based upon a real legitimate need – like an HIB or to that degree. In this case, the word grandfathering is what falls here and I think my appeal as a Superintendent, I feel my hands are tied when we want to help a child out and I just don’t understand why this is written this way and why we adopted it in this fashion. There should at least be some latitude on a case-by-case basis and circumstances, where you are able to do this. We do have a seat available and it seems insensitive.

Mr. Monge stated I’m not sure why that policy wouldn’t allow you as Superintendent to use your judgement. You understand the basis of the policy but you as Superintendent should have the ability to make that decision when deemed necessary.

Mr. Nufrio stated latitude certainly does work here and it could work easily this evening as well. In order to respond to Mr. Tatum’s reasoning, perhaps the Policy Committee can look through some verbal changes to that so that we don’t run into the same situation. Bear in mind this was a unique situation. This child has attended that school for two years and unfortunately the parent indicated she changed address which is still Union but even further out closer to the Jefferson School as before it was far but not that far. She is presented with a very difficult

scenario and she said today she sent a child to school and I had to pay an Uber. It cost her \$13 and change to go to school.

Mr. Griggs stated Board Policy #9314, suspension of policies bylaws and regulations – Township of Union Board of Education has developed a careful process for formulating, adopting policies and bylaws, requests for suspension of any existing policy or bylaw shall receive the same careful consideration in an event of an emergency (the welfare of the child) require immediate attention, the Superintendent has the power to waive the policy for regulation in a single instance. In such case the Superintendent shall report the incident to the Board immediately and request reconsideration of the policy – which I think is what you are doing.

Mr. Nufrio stated you are able to do it this evening; then the policy can be reviewed for better language structure so as to accommodate another unique situation.

Mr. Monge stated you could have made that decision and came back and reported it. Mr. Griggs stated he could have. The only cautionary statement I have is it is a unique, one of a kind emergency, and the description here is the child has been doing this for two years. Mr. Tatum stated and we have a seat available. It could have been a different story if we didn't have a seat. Mr. Nufrio stated if no one here objects, I would ask Mr. Brennan if you could delegate someone to call this parent. Mr. Griggs stated I would send a letter to the parent explaining that we understand your cause and we have invoked the policy and we will grant your request. Mr. Nufrio stated I just want to avoid the additional cost tomorrow morning.

Mr. Tatum stated the arrangements need to be made with the actual transition with the funds and things like that and let them know.

Mrs. Regis-Darby stated update on lunch survey for ARAMARK and the second one was the transportation, I think last year I spoke about bus #75 – it goes from Brookside into Biscayne and then it goes up from Vauxhall to the high school but from Highland to Earhart is grass sidewalk so when it snows in the winter the kids have to walk on the street to get down Biscayne so maybe you can add an additional stop after Highland Avenue.

Mr. Monge stated Mr. Tatum I thought that every year they are supposed to check the routes. Mr. Tatum stated that is correct, that is the policy and it is supposed to be done annually. Any issue we find we report it and we revise the routes.

Mrs. Regis-Darby stated between Highland and Earhart is grass and when it snows nobody shovels that path so now the kids have to walk down Vauxhall on the street to get down to Biscayne – so the bus is passing Highland and right after that there are sidewalks so it is just a matter of stopping right there so the kids won't have to go the other path. Mr. Brennan stated I will bring it to Gail's attention.

Mr. Monge stated can you ask if the policy is being followed because there is supposed to be an annual review. A site like that should have been changed. Mr. Tatum stated that is correct. Mrs. Regis-Darby stated or a new one added. There are kids on the opposite side that need that Biscayne one but the kids from Earhart up to Highland, they need another one so that

don't have to go that opposite direction to put themselves in danger. Mr. Tatum stated we have made modifications in stops in the Indiana area on more than one occasion and I think we went back to the original stop to facilitate some other needs not that very long ago that was changed for a couple of years and then went back to that stop.

Mrs. Regis-Darby stated I called the Town and the County. The Town said it was a County road and the County said it was a Town road so I'm calling someone else to figure out whose road it is. At least put a sidewalk to make the kids safe.

Are we moving forward with the lunch survey? Mrs. Moses stated student, parent, teacher surveys – we have a platform that is going into effect. Mr. Wojick will be heading that. We will be doing more than one survey – parents, teachers, students, administrators.

Mrs. Regis-Darby asked is it possible to get digital IDs for the students – all levels. Mr. Benaquista stated we definitely have the capabilities. Let's discuss it at the next principal's meeting. We will come back to the table and talk further about it. Mrs. Regis-Darby stated sometimes the kids leave their IDs at home and for them to get into the building it makes it easier because they do have their smart phones and they can pull it up and it makes it easier for them to get in and instead of getting a wrist band.

Mrs. Minneci stated can I ask about all-day pre-k. Mrs. Moses stated a lot of parents signed up and a lot of parents are delaying it right now. We do have three classes – 10/10/8 – you have to remember a parent may sign up in December. We have to look at it. We are going to collect the data this year. Mr. Tatum stated we continue to try to find other methods of funding to reduce the cost. We had to start somewhere and it is all about trial and error.

Mr. Nufrio asked do you know why some parents are delaying the start? Mrs. Moses stated it is all about finance. It is a five-day program. Sometimes you have parents that pick an all-day program 2 or 3 days a week. We didn't put that in. You learn when you put things out what they need. Mr. Nufrio stated it can also be the parents trying to figure out the maturity level of the child at that point. It is another work in progress.

Mr. Arminio stated next week we will have a sports update. The football team is 1-1. Tonight is senior night for the girls' soccer team

For information purposes, Mark Diono is a columnist for the Star Ledger and he wrote a book "Gods of Wood and Stone" – it just came out and the reason I'm mentioning it the setting is Union, New Jersey.

The Mayor's 5K Race is September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The professional development that took place with the Social Studies Department of the high school and middle schools and some special ed teachers attended – went around to three different sites in Union – the Caldwell House, Liberty Hall – it was a collaboration of the cultural arts of Union County, the Town Historical Society and the school system. About 40 teachers participated. It went very well.

Finally, with the Board's permission, next week there are two presentations through Mr. Tatum – the history club – Don Erdman – proclamation by the State for Hannah Caldwell Day. We would like to present that to the president of the history club of Union High School and Mr. Erdman and the other one is last year you gave permission we voted for Union Public Library had a summer reading program and Hannah Caldwell had the most readers to participate in the summer reading program and Burnet Middle School had the most participants in the middle schools and you approved that the Friends of Union Library give them \$100 each and a plaque. I already told Burnet and I will get in touch with Hannah Caldwell – so that they can come and send a representative to receive the money and the plaque. Just for everyone's edification there was 2,317 readers who participated in the summer program; it was a very good program.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Arminio stated the ESL program was a somewhat of a success but it was the first year we did it. I think the biggest problem was it was spread out too much; it was two days a week – one day at the Union Library and one day at Vauxhall Library – over eight weeks. It needs to be condensed and we will get a better participation. Next year it will be open to parents. I think parents need it just as much as the kids or just improve their English skills.

#### COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Ann Margaret Shannon stated president of the UTEA – I think from the lack of information that I received I think we had an awesome beginning of the school year because there was no complaints and I think everybody had a great time. A lot of people were jealous about the professional development and maybe we can do more creative things like that.

I had a question on the electronic forms – specifically on the internet use. I think everyone knows that the high school is totally online so how does that affect a student who did not sign up for the internet and I know the middle school uses online too. I have not read it line by line but do we have a caveat where if the teacher is teaching an online program. Mrs. Moses stated the online program is part of the curriculum so it is just the same as the text. Ms. Shannon stated but if a parent signs a paper that they can't use an internet? Mrs. Moses stated they can't use the internet for other research things, but if the textbook is online. Ms. Shannon stated so there is no conflict; because the new icon does come up next to the kid's name. Ms. Hart stated I think it refers to any internet like searching and things like that. Ms. Shannon stated I just want to clarify that we don't have to worry about that.

Rich D'Avanzo stated UTEA vice president – I don't know if anyone in here is aware of what is going to be taking place in Trenton tomorrow. The State Board of Ed is meeting about the PARCC and the new regulations that got passed down. We have been asked and we distributed to our members about contacting the State Board of Ed and a lot of them are unfortunately still Christie appointees and who knows what is going to happen with that. Especially State Senator Sweeney and his cronies about the whole thing – it is basically reducing the amount of testing time. I do have an email and I can forward it to Mr. Tatum and he can send it out and it is a link to the State Board of Ed members. I know a number of our leaders are going to be there testifying on the issues as well.

As promised here is your copy of the NJ Review regarding Jefferson.

The alumni game is set for Burnet/Kawameeh – September 27<sup>th</sup> at Biertuempfel Park. I hope you can attend and the money goes to provide grants for our students.

**MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Moved by Mrs. Higgins, seconded by Mr. Arminio, that the Board go into Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. 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.

- Matters involving collective bargaining agreement negotiations and/or the negotiations of terms and conditions of employment.
- 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. Higgins, Mrs. Minneci, Mr. Monge, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Williams, Mr. Nufrio

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Mrs. Regis-Darby

**MOTION CARRIED**

The Board returned to public session at 10:15 p.m.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:**

There being no further business before the Board in public session it was moved by Mr. Arminio, seconded by Mrs. Regis-Darby, that the meeting be adjourned at 10:15 p.m. All present voting YES **MOTION CARRIED**

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

GREGORY E. BRENNAN  
BOARD SECRETARY