

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, UNIONDALE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT, UNIONDALE, Nassau County, New York was held via Zoom room 961 1226 5687 on Tuesday, July 28, 2020 at 8:00 PM.

PRESENT: Ms. Charmise Desiré, President; Mr. Justin Brown, Vice President; Trustees: Dr. Mary Bediako Ed.D, Ms. Addie Blanco-Harvey and Ms. Carol Eason; Ms. Valencia Hopkins, Student Board Member

ALSO PRESENT: Rhonda Taylor, Acting Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Myrtle E. Dickson, Asst. Supt. for Human Resources; Edward McCarthy, District Counsel; Ana Ritter, Director of Instructional Technology

ABSENT: Dr. William K. Lloyd, Superintendent of Schools; Steven Epstein, Asst. Superintendent for Business Affairs; Olena Nicks, District Clerk

Ms. Desiré called the meeting to order at 8:04 PM with the pledge of allegiance.

Ms. Ritter conducted a roll call, all were present with the exception of Dr. Lloyd, Mr. Epstein and the District Clerk were excused.

ROUTINE MATTERS

A motion was made by Mr. Brown seconded by Ms. Blanco-Harvey and approved unanimously to accept the minutes of Reorganization Meeting held July 7, 2020.

A motion was made by Dr. Bediako seconded by Ms. Eason and approved unanimously to accept the minutes of Budget Hearing and Special Meeting held July 21, 2020.

A motion was made by Mr. Brown seconded by Ms. Blanco-Harvey and approved unanimously to accept the following minutes of CSE and Special Education:

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

Mr. McCarthy advised that the charter being presented is for a Budget Advisory Committee. Similar to the Bond Oversight Advisory Committee, the advisory committee would assist the district and central administration in developing, implementing, and getting feedback on the annual budget preparation for the district. He advised that many districts have a Budget Advisory committee, Uniondale does not and this is something the Board of Education is interested in. After the committee has been formed and members have been appointed, it is likely the committee will begin meeting some time in December. The Board will work with Central Administration to get this developed. This is the first reading of the charter.

ACTING SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Ms. Taylor, Acting Superintendent of Schools, welcomed the community. She provided updates regarding the reopening plan. She discussed that the reopening plan was shared with the Board and public on July 23rd and will be sent to the state this Friday, July 31st. This plan can be found on all district and school websites on Thursday, July 30th. Ms. Taylor suggested that the governor is expected to make his decision about reopening the first week in August. She reminded the community that a survey was sent out regarding reopening, the district is welcoming feedback from the community to better serve the students. Ms. Taylor stated that about 700 responses have been received and the district is looking for more so that the voices of the parents can be heard. Ms. Ritter will be reposting the survey online for anyone who may not have had the opportunity to take. The reopening plan is a fluid document and always changing.

COMMENTS BY THE BOARD

Ms. Valencia Hopkins greeted everyone. She says she has been encouraging the community to vote in the District's Budget Re-vote. She hopes the budget passes for the wellbeing of the school district, students and faculty.

Ms. Eason thanked everyone for attending the meeting. There are 49 people in the meeting who she believes have all voted, she thanked them for that. She hopes the budget passes and looks forward to a positive outcome.

Ms. Blanco-Harvey greeted the community and thanked everyone for their attendance. This afternoon she took part in a Webinar which was focuses on working with the community. It is her understanding that the reason the budget failed twice was because there is a mistrust from the community. One of the key things discussed in her webinar was working with the community. She believes the Board needs to be transparent. She believes she has a better idea of how the community sometimes feels because they may not always have enough information to make a decision. She finds herself in uncomfortable positions because she looks to be honest and transparent. In a prior meeting, she expressed concerns about the excess of funds at the end of the year. Ms. Blanco-Harvey states that Mr. Epstein advised this excess was partially from over budgeting and saving money. This response puts her in a difficult position as a community resident. She states that we have to remember a lot of community members have been affected by COVID-19 and we have to keep them in mind when we are putting a budget together and what we expect them to be able to afford. Herself and her children are where they are because they are products of Uniondale. She is still skeptical on coming back and that we should prepare to be home in September.

Dr. Bediako greeted everyone, wishing the community wellness and safety. She stated the polls will be open for another 35 minutes, if you have not voted yet, please go and cast your vote. It is important we vote and get the budget passed, let's do it for our kids.

Mr. Brown thanked everyone for attending and for voting. He encouraged everyone who hasn't voted to come out and bring anyone they know.

Ms. Desiré thanked the community for attending. She says it is a busy time for the community. Ms. Desiré announced that on the homepage, there is a link to allow the community watch the live count of the ballots. She stated that many of the board members recently attended a virtual 2-day law conference which focused on some of the changes due to COVID and other things to be mindful of when working with student and staff. She believes part of the role of the board is to advocate for Uniondale the community which includes parents, students, taxpayers and staff. She shared a concern regarding last week's emergency meeting. Ms. Desiré provided clarity for the purpose of the emergency meeting and any miscommunication regarding this meeting. She thanked those who have already been out to vote. We have a lot of work ahead of us, primarily the safety of students and staff. Results of today's election will be announced this evening. She added that the Summer Academy Celebration will be this upcoming Thursday and the graduation ceremony for those students who needed to make up some additional credits will be held on Friday.

SUBMITTED COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

Does the district feel confident that schools will open in September?, Do parents have an option if they do not want to send their children back? How will schools be cleaned during the day? Concerns on how meetings are advertised. Will the budget committee be allowed to reviewed budget vs current spending?

Old Business

Upon the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent of Schools motion was made by Mr. Brown, seconded by Ms. Blanco-Harvey and approved unanimously to accept the minutes of Regular Meeting on June 23, 2020.

Board of Education Action:

CURRICULUM

None

BUSINESS

Upon the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent of Schools, motion was made by Ms. Eason, seconded by Dr. Bediako and approved unanimously, WHEREIN IT WAS:

RESOLVED that approval was granted for the following:

The buyback of 180 iPad Gen 4 devices.

Upon the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent of Schools, motion was made by Ms. Eason, seconded by Dr. Bediako and approved unanimously, WHEREIN IT WAS:

RESOLVED that approval was granted for the following:

WHEREAS, the Uniondale Union Free School District's Budget Re-Vote and was held on July 28, 2020 for the purpose of voting on the budget proposition,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Uniondale Union Free School District hereby declares and accepts the results of the Budget Re-Vote held on July 28, 2020, as presented by the District Clerk, and tabulated as follows:

	YES	NO	TOTAL VOTES		
NPS				ABSENTEE	
M1	148	34		YES	78
M2	47	12		NO	213
SUBTOTAL	195	46	241	TOTAL	291
SSS				ALL TOTAL	
M1	124	24		YES	1143
M2	92	21		NO	555
UNDERVOTE		1			
				SUM OF ALL VOTERS	1700
SUBTOTAL	216	45	262		
CAL					
M1	124	28			
M2	134	28			
SUBTOTAL	258	56	314		
GAS					
M1	117	16			
M2	28	3			
SUBTOTAL	145	19	164		
WAL					
M1	109	91			
M2	142	85			
UNDERVOTE		1			
SUBTOTAL	251	176	428		
			1409		

PERSONNEL**Professional Development** - all Nassau/Western Suffolk BOCES seminars/PD are at no cost to District

Upon the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent of Schools, motion was made by Mr. Brown, seconded by Ms. Eason and approved unanimously WHEREIN IT WAS:

RESOLVED that approval was granted for the following:

Faroldine Blake to attend Introduction to Restorative Circles on July 30-31, 2020 via online platform. No cost to attend.

Kim Fleury to attend The process: Developing and cultivating an early childhood growth mindset culture on August 18, 2020 via Online Platform. No cost to attend.

Nicole Johnson to attend Planning for Re-Entry Leadership During the Time of CoVid on August 18-26, 2020 via Online Platform. No cost to attend.

Keith Saunders to attend APPR Re-certification on August 12, 2020 via online platform. No cost to attend.

Cecelia Bonner Hamilton, Sergio Argueta, Beverly Wolcott, Mark Sippin and Sheilah M Jefferson-Isaac to attend Annual Recertification Training for Principal and Teacher Evaluators on September 14, 2020 via online platform. No cost to attend.

Upon the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent of Schools, motion was made by Dr. Bediako, seconded by Ms. Eason and carried with the following vote: 4 AYE 1 RECUSED-Ms. Blanco-Harvey WHEREIN IT WAS:

RESOLVED that approval was granted for the following:

Adelina Blanco-Harvey to attend NYSSBA Fiscal Oversight Fundamentals on August 17-18, 2020 via online platform. Cost to attend \$130.00

Adelina Blanco-Harvey to attend NYSSBA Essentials of School Board Governance on August 24, 2020 via online platform. Cost to attend \$130.00

Faculty Personnel

Upon the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent of Schools, motion was made by Ms. Eason, seconded by Ms. Blanco-Harvey and approved unanimously, WHEREIN IT WAS:

RESOLVED that approval was granted for the following:

Approval of Tenure for Elmer Flores, a UHS Special Education Teacher effective December 4, 2020.

Approval of Tenure for Feliz Sagrario, a UHS/CSE Psychologist effective October 23, 2020

Approval of Tenure for Tara Cloghessy, a THMS Special Education teacher effective November 20, 2020

Probationary Appointment of Rae Ann Siwick, a Shubert Elementary School Teacher at annual salary of \$72,167.00 MA/Step 1 effective August 31, 2020 to August 30, 2024.

Non-Faculty Personnel

Upon the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent of Schools, motion was made by Ms. Eason, seconded by Mr. Brown and approved unanimously, WHEREIN IT WAS:

RESOLVED that approval was granted for the following:

Probationary Appointment of Padmawattie Vega, a UHS Typist Clerk at an annual salary of \$39,520.00 Step 2-Prorated effective August 11, 2020 to February 5, 2021.

Board of Education Affiliations

Upon the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent of Schools, motion was made by Dr. Bediako, seconded by Ms. Blanco-Harvey and approved unanimously, WHEREIN IT WAS:

RESOLVED that approval was granted for the following:

Approval to renew the following Board of Education memberships for the 2020-21 School Year:

Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association
New York State Caucus of Black School Board Members
New York State School Board Association
R.E.F.I.T (Reform Educational Financing Inequities Today)

A motion was made at 8:54 PM by Ms. Blanco-Harvey, seconded by Mr. Brown and approved unanimously to go into executive session for purposes of discussing personnel matters.

A motion was made at 11:06 PM by, seconded by and approved unanimously to reconvene into public session.

A motion was made at 11:17 PM by Mr. Brown, seconded Ms. Eason and approved unanimously to adjourn.

Olena Nicks, District Clerk