

THE BUDGET HEARING AND SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, UNIONDALE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT, UNIONDALE, Nassau County, New York was held via Zoom room 997 5219 0473 on Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at 7:00 PM.

PRESENT: Ms. Charmise Desiré, President; Mr. Justin Brown, Vice President; Trustees: Dr. Mary Bediako Ed.D, Ms. Addie Blanco-Harvey (Departed at 10:01 PM) 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, Steven Epstein, Asst. Superintendent for Business Affairs; Michael Raniere, District Counsel; and Olena Nicks, District Clerk

ABSENT: Dr. William K. Lloyd, Superintendent of Schools; Clarence Little, Treasurer

The Board of Education of the Uniondale Union Free School District is scheduled to meet briefly at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 21, 2020 via video and audio conference in Zoom Meeting Room 961-4492-2537 for its regularly scheduled meeting. At 5:35 PM Ms. Eason made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss certain personnel matters and collective agreements between bargaining units. It was seconded by Ms. Blanco-Harvey and approved unanimously. At 7:02 PM Ms. Eason made a motion to reconvene in public session. It was seconded by Dr. Bediako and approved unanimously. The Board reconvened in open session at 7:02 PM.

The District Clerk conducted a roll call, all were present with the exception of Dr. Lloyd who was excused.

The Budget hearing was called to order at 7:04 PM.

A motion was made by Mr. Brown to open the budget hearing, seconded by Dr. Bediako and approved unanimously.

Ms. Desiré called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance.

Ms. Taylor made an announcement of the budget hearing

Mr. Epstein presented the final budget for the 2020-21 school year.

The following comments and questions were made regarding the budget:

What is the cost paid out in lawsuits? What is the next steps if the budget does not pass? Has there been any changes to the budget since it went up for a vote in June? What programs are at risk due to COVID? Will you have the flexibility to purchase COVID supplies under contingency? Concern about True View and how many students are found to be nonresidents. Savings from COVID.

Ms. Desiré made an announcement of the Annual Budget Vote and Trustee Election.

At 8:32 pm Ms. Eason made a motion to close the budget hearing, seconded by Dr. Bediako and approved unanimously.

The regular meeting of the Board of Education Meeting was called to order at 8:32 PM.

ROUTINE MATTERS

None

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

None

ACTING SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Ms. Taylor, Acting Superintendent of Schools, recognized 2 scholars who participated in the Science Research Competition. Valencia Hopkins who placed 9th, discussed her research that she conducted on Gaining Insight on Academic Stress. Valencia was inspired because herself and many of her peers are AP students who have some concerns. She highlighted that her project surrounded a comparison on AP students vs Non-academic students, finding that students who took more rigorous classes enjoy school more, contradicting her hypothesis that they would enjoy school less. Gaelle Revolus who placed 4th, conducted her research on Ecological Anxiety in Suburban High School Students. She discussed that her project was sparked by the Amazon Rainforest fires and many of her peers being concerned about climate change. Her hypothesis taught her that while majority of people recycle, they do not participate in composting, or use environmentally friendly home devices.

Ms. Taylor also recognized four scholars, Kyle Reynolds, Mia Prescod, Emily Long and Elisha Maynard for their engagement in Art and Music while also maintaining over a 90 average. These scholars were honored with the 2019-2020 Scholar Artists and Musicians achievement. Mia expressed her recognition was something she had been looking forward too and will be attending SUNY Purchase in the Fall. Elisha was also a scholar athlete and a recognized in Newsday recognition. He will be attending Stony Brook University in the Fall. All portraits will be hung in the UHS lobby for one year.

COMMENTS BY THE BOARD

Ms. Valencia Hopkins encourages everyone to please vote in the budget re-vote on July 28th so that programs may not be at risk.

Ms. Eason thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She encouraged everyone to come out and vote especially our youth. She thanked the research scholars and congratulated them on their work. She also congratulated the art and music scholars, adding that colleges look for individuals who are well rounded. She thanked Mr. Epstein for his thorough presentation. Ms. Eason stated that the community needs to know what it takes to do the things we need for our students.

Ms. Blanco-Harvey congratulated all the students who were recognized this evening. She recently attended NALEO workshop specifically to sustaining school districts during a financial crisis. She highlighted some of her takeaways from the webinar, such as readiness resources, PPE and distance learning. It is her opinion that ENL and ELL programs will suffer most from cuts and reductions. She also believes that they will suffer with distance learning as participation and teaching methods for these programs and students are different. She stated the district must ensure safety for staff and students.

Dr. Bediako thanked everyone for attending. She congratulated all the scholars recognized. She thanked Mr. Epstein for the presentation of the budget. Dr. Bediako announced that July 28th is the revote and urges everyone to come out and bring their neighbors. She reflected on a complaint about the district proposing the same budget and she wants to let everyone know the original budget was a bare-bone budget and nothing left to cut. Our students deserve better. Out of the 124 school districts on Long Island (Nassau and Suffolk), only three districts have failed budgets, and Uniondale is the only district with a failed budget (K-12 district) to have a failed budget in Nassau County. So please, we must come out and vote. Bring your family, friends and neighbors.

Mr. Brown congratulated the students on their achievements and thanked Mr. Epstein for his presentation. He urged everyone to come and vote on July 28th. He reflected on those individuals he knows that are currently successful and products of the Uniondale School District, those individuals had the budget and resources they needed. He thanked all for coming out.

Ms. Desiré thanked the community for staying on this evening and for the support of the district. She states that we have to weather the storm and we are not alone, there were 3 districts on Long Island with a failed budget. She states that we need to advise our neighbors to come out as well as encourage everyone we know to come out and vote. She congratulated the scholars honored this evening and thanked them for their hard work. These scholars were resilient and she believes this is due to their foundation with Uniondale. She wants the community to know that we are not alone in this journey as there are other private college institutions experiencing some of the issues our district is experiencing. We need to make sure we are accountable so we do no harm to our neighbor. Ms. Desiré reminded everyone of their options to vote on July 28th.

SUBMITTED COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

None

Old Business

None

Board of Education Action:**CURRICULUM**

None

BUSINESS

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:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the supplementary agreement with the Nassau County Board of Elections on July 28, 2020 for the budget Re-Vote and authorization for the President of the Board of Education to execute and sign agreement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education of the Uniondale Union Free School District hereby appoints the following individuals to work as election inspectors at each of the District's five (5) polling sites, specifically the Northern Parkway School, the California Avenue School, the Smith Street School, the Grand Avenue School and the Walnut Street School:

Delores Reid Barker, Melinda Simpson, Wendy Simpson, Kim Jenkins, Gina Bellegarde, Bobbie Buck, Elaine Burke, Ethel Frazier, Marcia King, Marie Lebon, Guerdina Lassagre, Janet Ojo, Sharon Tucker, Marie Paul, Tracie Brown, Deirdre Dawson, Maxon Denat, Nancy Skeete, June Perry, Monique Perry, Emma Long, Harold Long, Tracie Brown, and Candice Brown

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 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:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby approves the payment of costs associated with Adelina Blanco-Harvey's attendance at the Annual NYSSBA 2020 Law Conference on July 21-22, 2020. Cost \$120 per attendee.

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

RESOLVED that approval was granted for the following:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby approves the payment of costs associated with Mary Bediako's attendance at the Annual NYSSBA 2020 Law Conference on July 21-22, 2020. Cost \$120 per attendee.

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

RESOLVED that approval was granted for the following:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby approves the payment of costs associated with Carol Eason's attendance at the Annual NYSSBA 2020 Law Conference on July 21-22, 2020. Cost \$120 per attendee.

Faculty Personnel

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

RESOLVED that approval was granted for the following:

Probationary appointment of Philip Williams, a WSS Physical Education Teacher effective August 31, 2020 to August 20, 2024 with an annual salary of \$62,327.00 BA/Step 1

Probationary Appointment of Amanda Savage, a SSS AIS Math Teacher effective August 31, 2020 to August 30, 2023 with an annual salary of \$80,785.00 MA/Step 1

Probationary appointment of Jordan Freison-Alexander, a GAS Elementary Teacher effective August 31, 2020 to August 30, 2024 at an annual salary of \$72,167.00 MA/Step 1

Probationary appointment of Jessica Frank, a GAS Elementary Teacher effective August 31, 2020 to August 30, 2024 at an annual salary of \$72,167.00 MA/Step 1

Non-Faculty Personnel

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:

Request for FMLA for Tiffany Ebron, a District Typist Clerk effective August 24, 2020 to November 13, 2020

Request for FMLA of Nazneen Alam, a UHS Typist Clerk effective July 21, 2020 to August 6, 2020.

Resignation for the purposes of retirement of Wycliffe Edwards, a WSS Lunch Monitor effective June 30, 2020

Approval of the following Summer Security Staff:

Danny McFarlane	Thomas Skinner
Walter Job	Jean Petitfrere
Willie Hatcher	Bruce Viet
Pauline Grant	Jamir Ali
Marlon Villeda	Cornelio Salazar
Phillip Dupera	Marvin Alfaro
Stephen Congelosi	Kieth Meeks
Adrian Jones	Stanley Adams
Kishwana Webb	Wayne Williams
Thomas Roberts	Janet Sinclair
Sherlene Webb	Daniel Bigby
Deborah Duncan	Razetta Thornton
Jean Hyppolite	Mary Friesen
Harold Ferguson	Wade McKeithan
Jamie Turcios	Thomas Sledge

Michael Porter Robert Lloyd
 Cecilia Perez Harcky Vargas

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

Approval of MOA for Custodial Unit

Substitute Personnel

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

RESOLVED that approval was granted for the following:

Appointment of Alexandra Taliana, a LRMS Permanent Substitute Teacher effective August 31, 2020 at a rate of \$140 per day.

Approval of the following non-certified substitute effective August 31, 2020 at a rate of \$100 per day:
 Tiye Bradley

A motion was made at 9:19 PM by Ms. Blanco-Harvey, seconded by Ms. Eason and approved unanimously to go into executive session for purposes of discussing personnel matters.

A motion was made at 9:59 PM by Ms. Eason, seconded by Mr. Brown and approved unanimously to reconvene into public session.

A motion was made at 10:03 PM by Mr. Brown, seconded Ms. Eason and approved unanimously to adjourn.

Olena Nicks, District Clerk