

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, UNIONDALE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT, UNIONDALE, Nassau County, New York was held via Zoom room 998 1067 3458 on Tuesday, May 06, 2020 at 7:00 PM.

PRESENT: Ms. Charmise Desiré, President; Mr. Neville Georges, Vice President; Trustees: Mr. Justin Brown (arrived at 5:53 PM), Ms. Addie Blanco-Harvey and Ms. Carol Eason; Ms. Bailey Jeffries, Student Board Member

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. William K. Lloyd, Superintendent of Schools; Rhonda Taylor, Asst. Supt. for Curriculum and Instruction; Dr. Myrtle E. Dickson, Asst. Supt. for Human Resources, Steven Epstein, Asst. Superintendent for Business Affairs; Clarence Little, Treasurer Edward McCarthy, District Counsel; and Olena Nicks, District Clerk

The Board of Education of the Uniondale Union Free School District is scheduled to meet briefly at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 06, 2020 via video and audio conference in Zoom Meeting Room 998 1067 3458 for its regularly scheduled meeting. At 5:32 PM Ms. Eason made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss certain personnel matters including the hiring of a transcription service for the Board of Education Meetings. It was seconded by Mr. Georges and approved unanimously. At 7:02 PM Ms. Eason made a motion to reconvene in public session. It was seconded by Mr. Brown and approved unanimously. The Board reconvened in open session at 7:04 PM.

Meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM.

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

Roll call was conducted, all were present.

ROUTINE MATTERS

Motion was made by Mr. Brown, seconded by Ms. Blanco-Harvey and approved unanimously, to accept the approval of minutes of regular Board of Education meeting on April 21, 2020.

Motion was made by Ms. Blanco-Harvey, seconded by Mr. Brown and approved unanimously, to accept the minutes of the Committees on Special Education, Preschool Special Education and the Sub-Committees on Special Education.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

Legal

Mr. McCarthy presented the second reading of the revised Extra Classroom Activity Funds. There has been so subsequent additions, revisions or comments. Motion was made by Ms. Eason, seconded by Mr. Brown and approved unanimously to accept the revised and updated policy.

Mr. McCarthy presented the second reading of the Graduation Policy revision. In order for students to receive a regent's diploma, the state will have a different set of requirements imposed. The policy revision will take the current pandemic into account. There has been so subsequent additions, revisions or comments. Motion was made by Ms. Eason, seconded by Mr. Brown and approved unanimously to accept the revised and updated policy.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Dr. Lloyd stated that the governor has announced schools will be closed for the remaining of the academic year. No determination has been made regarding summer school; the district is expecting this decision to come sometime in May.

Mr. Epstein, Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs, reviewed Draft 5 of the 2020-21 School Budget.

Alex Kerr and Bill Jackson, Financial Advisors and Bond Counsel for the District, discussed the current market and some of the vulnerability regarding state aid. The firm has been in conversation with the district and are recommending that all of their clients adopt a TAN & RAN (Tax anticipation note, revenue anticipation note) resolution in the event that there are delays or disruptions of state and tax payments in the current fiscal year or the 2020-21 year. The resolution would allow the district to borrow to cover any potential shortfalls. The district would be under no obligations to borrow if they put the resolution in effect. The current market rate is around 1.2% for a TAN or RAN, this is favorable as compared to rates in the past. If the district went out for short term issuance, the rate would be estimated around 1.25 to 1.50%. Mr. Kerr advised that under current circumstances, it may take additional weeks for short term financing to get put together.

Mr. Little presented the treasurers and financial report.

Mr. La Bare, Director of Building and Grounds announced that the bids for the new boilers at LRMS and UHS have been awarded. Regarding the bond project, NYSED has transitioned to doing everything remotely, so the review and approval of phase I is delayed, as well as their current project manager has filed for retirement which is creating additional delays. He noted that on a positive note, the engineering review has been approved, this includes HVAC and refrigeration systems of the new building additions. Phase II has approvals from the third party have been sent to NYSED for review. Phase III is at 30% development and it is anticipated that this will be completed in the next two months. He also advised that there have also been approvals for demolition of the portables but the demolition of the portables is dependent on the approval of building construction.

Ms. Ford, Bond Oversight Advisory Committee Chairperson, gave brief overview of the committee and their role they serve in the district. The committee has a meeting next Thursday May 14, 2020, which they expect the financial advisors of the district to provide a presentation on expected bond anticipation notes and recommendations for the district borrowing for the bond.

Ms. Jackson, President of the PTA Council, advised PTA Council will be having a virtual debate for the Board of Education candidates. They are currently working out the logistics and will get back next week with the information for the debate.

COMMENTS BY THE BOARD

Ms. Jeffries thanked the High School Administration, Board of Education and Senior Advisors for allowing them to have the senior caravan which is taking place Friday, May 8th and this is such an hour. She wished all students who are taking their AP Exams good luck. Ms. Jeffries wished safety to all.

Ms. Eason stated that the Board was blessed to have Bailey. They had no idea she would be the last voice the board would hear from the students. She thanked all the staff who participated in the caravan. Everyone was excited including both students and staff. Regarding the budget, it was presented that BOCES will be reduced which means the amount of student participation will have to be reduced. While she doesn't want to increase tax levy, she doesn't want to take away the opportunity from students to learn vocational skills. She encourages the district to find other ways to make reductions that will not affect the scholars. She believes that disciplinary suspensions are something that need to be more inside than outside, especially with the current pandemic situation. Our scholars have to compete with the rest of the world so we need to make sure that nothing is minimized when it comes to their education. She thanked everyone for coming out and wished everyone safety, she looks forward to all our programs next year.

Ms. Blanco-Harvey thanked everyone for attending this evening including the administrators, educators, staff and Ms. Jeffries. One of her biggest concerns is the students and if they are getting the proper education during this time. Not all of our scholars have access to computers, Wi-Fi or other means of technology. Some Students are still getting work in the form of paper. She mentioned that she was a little taken aback that we are considering taking summer school education funding off of the budget. Her concern is what the district will do for our students falling behind at this time. She would like for everyone to continue checking on their neighbors and loved ones. She has a lot of concerns but wants to continue to make progress for the betterment of our students.

Mr. Brown thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Mr. Brown expressed his concerns about the delays that COVID-19 will cause in construction. What is the plan going forward regarding classroom structure and ensuring students have sufficient space in the rooms after their return? What is the plan for summer school and the possibility of an overflow? His other concern is that many parents may voluntarily enroll their children in summer school, so this is something that the district needs to keep in mind.

Mr. Georges raised the question: Has the district budgeted for summer school and how much has been allocated? These are difficult times and as a whole we have never faced a situation like this in this country before and this is something we need to stay mindful of.

Ms. Desiré shared similar concerns as the rest of the board regarding plans for summer school. In the educational institution she works in, there are plans for online classes during the summer. She expressed that we need to ensure scholars get the opportunity to catch up in areas they may not have mastered during the distance learning. School districts were asked to submit an extended distance learning plan to the state by this week, we need to be mindful of our goal as a Board which is to provide uninterrupted educational service. The board is doing the best they can to stay on top of continued education and opportunities as some things are not options and more mandates from the Governor's Office. There are different directives coming from the state and things are changing daily. The district can always do a better job in communicating the information received. Ms. Desiré read additional information regarding the upcoming district election.

SUBMITTED COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

What was put in place in order to determine the current educational plan being provided to the students? More specifically, why are the students not receiving a full day of virtual education via Zoom/ Skype or otherwise?, How is the social/emotional component being addressed? More specifically why are the children not being provided with virtual sessions both group and individual to determine how the children are being impacted., How is student participation being tracked? I.E. whether they are logging in and/or submitting homework? How is the grading system that is going to be associated with this distance learning?, When is Dr. Lloyd's employment contract up? How much, if any, notice must be provided to him contractually if the district will not be renewing his contract?, Is there an update to the Forensic Audit request?, Is there a requirement for the board members to attend mandatory meeting for requirements and have you filled that requirement as of today? Does BOE Members attend any extra meetings outside of the required meetings? Please, give a name of the meetings. Mr. George can be excluded from the questions because, he is retiring., When does the contract end for the law firm and how is bidding process done for a new firm?, How do you feel about the expansion of the charter school? Is it a significant financial burden on the district?, How much money is in the reserves before using it for the budget?, Will the district negotiate union give backs for savings?, What is being purchased with the unrestricted money in the 2020-2021 budget., Can the board please explain the voting process for the upcoming election?, There was talk about extending school into the summer, Will there more video chat lessons as the school year continues? High school students get a lot of "do by yourself work", Is this the only company to be asked to give a demonstration for a loan?, What was the other times on what projects did this company help receiving loans to Uniondale District?, Since removal of portals is approved does this mean that they will be removed first? If so, where would the students occupying the portals be placed?, Did I understand that the project manager is retiring? If so, when and who will seamlessly replace him?, Will Ms. Ford Bond meeting be open to the public since, our school district have such talented students who love to perform, Maybe in the future of thinking to have a school dedicated as a performance art school, Rather than an A and B day for student attendance why not a morning and afternoon schedule so that students stay on task through presence not remotely, If physical summer school is cancelled, is an online option being considered so students can continue some learning over the summer?, What has the district done to publicize these online meetings to the community?, Are parents going to have to pay for transportation for those students attending private schools or charter school?, Has a delayed prom and graduation been considered when social distancing is lifted?, When should we expect to receive the absentee ballot in the mail?, Right now the Governor seems set on pushing schools to develop a plan to comply with social distancing. It's still early, but if enforced for transportation, do you contemplate needing to contract more buses and anticipate an increase in cost? Is it built into the 5.9% increase in transportation shown in this budget?, Is the district considering purchasing PPE such as masks, thermometers, etc, Ms. Taylor, how many computers given to students if there is more than one student in a house home? is there a limit per

house hold or family?, To ensure the parents look for the absentee ballots, perhaps you can send robo-calls or texts to the parents or residence of the district., If we want to contact board members ,how do we get in contact with them? Are they available if community members want to talk to them?, How will the candidates for the Trustee seat be promoted? Other than the virtual meet the candidate session, what else will be done for residents to identify their options for the position, especially in light of absentee voting?, Follow up to Epstein: Please specify whether these firms are just appointed based on their years of service or are other firms provided with an opportunity to enter into a bidding process? This is important for the board to review with respect to the retainers of each firm., If of the 5 charter schools 4 are located in Uniondale school district who are the parties responsible for allowing this without challenge,

OLD BUSINESS

Motion was made by Mr. Georges, seconded by Ms. Blanco-Harvey and approved unanimously, to accept the approval of minutes of regular Board of Education meeting on April 7, 2020.

Motion was made by Mr. Georges, seconded by Ms. Blanco-Harvey and approved unanimously, to accept the minutes of the Committees on Special Education, Preschool Special Education and the Sub-Committees on Special Education.

BUSINESS

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

RESOLVED that approval was granted for the following:

Approval of the Nassau County School Facilities Management Association Cooperative Bids

Resolution that The Board of Education hereby approves the payment of costs associated with Zoom Pro Membership to host Board of Education meetings

Approval of NYU Langone Health Sports Medicine athletic trainers for the 2020-2021, 2021-2022, & 2022-2023 school years

Approval of bid award to Stadium Systems for reconditioning of Uniondale. UFSD athletic safety equipment

Acceptance of Financial & Treasurers Report

Approval of 2019-20 Capital Bid Awards

Resolution to approve the Agreements between the School District and SCOPE Education Services for student education for the 2020-2021 school year, Cerebral Palsy of Nassau tuition contract for the two-month Summer Program of 2019 and 10-month school year program for 2019-2020, Cerebral Palsy Association of Nassau County, Inc. for instruction services for the 2019-2020 school year, Kidz Therapy Services for Educational Services for the 2019-2020 school year, and Seneca Consulting Group for Affordable Care Act/Health-Related Services for the 2019-2020 school year.

Resolution that the Board of Education of the Uniondale Union Free School District hereby authorizes the appointment of Veritext Legal Solution to provide transcription services to the District in order to transcribe the District's charter school public hearing as conducted on April 28, 2020.

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

RESOLVED that approval was granted for the following:

Resolution to authorize a settlement in connection with the within special education matter

PERSONNEL

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

Upon the recommendation of the 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:

Keith Coles to attend Nurturing Our Students - B.A.S.I.S. on May 6, 2020 via online platform. No cost to attend.

Michael Wottawa to attend NYSED- An Overview of Autism Spectrum Disorders on June 9, 2020 via online platform. No cost to attend.

Auroog Qazi to attend Introduction to Restorative Practices on May 18-21, 2020 via online platform. No cost to attend.

Stacie Reid to attend How does COVID-19 closures impact Regents Exams and Graduation Requirements on May 7, 2020 via online platform. No cost to attend.

Kimberlee Pierre to attend ATIXA 2020 Summer Certification Series on June 8-19, 2020 via Online Platform. Cost to attend \$4,913.00. Title II Funded

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, motion was made by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Georges and failed with the following vote: 2 AYE 3 NAY-Ms. Blanco-Harvey, Ms. Desiré, Mr. Georges, WHEREIN Approval was not Granted for:

Dr. Lynnda M Nadien to attend Using Google Forms to Create Online Assignments for Advanced Users on May 4, 2020. via online platform. No cost to attend

It is noted this motion failed due to the timing of the request

Faculty Personnel

Upon the recommendation of the 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:

Acceptance of the rescinded request for FMLA from Elyssa Bent, a health and physical education teacher at Uniondale High School, originally effective June 1, 2020 to June 30, 2020.

Acceptance of the rescinded request for FMLA from Christine Nerney, a teacher at Grand Avenue School, originally effective to begin May 14, 2020

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves a retirement incentive for members of the Uniondale UFSD teachers' bargaining unit, on the following terms:

- a. This incentive shall be offered for 2020 only.
- b. The District will make a payment of \$15,000 to all members of the Uniondale Teachers' Association ("UTA") who retire with an effective date no later than June 30, 2020. This amount will be reduced by \$200.00 for each sick day taken after May 6, 2020.
- c. The payment will be made within 30 days of the effective date of the retirement, in the form of a 403(b) employer contribution.
- d. An irrevocable letter of resignation for purposes of retirement must be submitted via email to the District no later than 12:00 pm on May 14, 2020, and must state that the employee is participating in the 2020 Retirement Incentive. Such emails shall be directed to mdickson@uniondaleschools.org.

- e. If any employee rescinds or otherwise reverses his or her resignation or retirement from the District or the Teachers' Retirement System, he or she shall not be eligible for the incentive, and will be responsible for repaying any amount received from the District.
- f. Any employee who has submitted a letter of resignation or retirement prior to May 6, 2020, is not eligible for the incentive.
- g. Any employee who participates in this 2020 retirement incentive shall be ineligible for any other District retirement incentive or any other retirement payment set forth in the collective bargaining agreement between the District and the UTA.

Board of Education Action

Upon the recommendation of the 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:

Approval of the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association 2020-2021 Budget

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, motion was made by Mr. Georges, seconded by Ms. Blanco-Harvey and carried with the following vote: 4 AYE 1 Recused-Ms. Desiré, WHEREIN IT WAS:

RESOLVED that approval was granted for the following:

Approval of the proposed Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association 2020-2021 Slate of Officers and Executive Committee Members.

A Motion to adjourn public session was made at 11:00 PM by Mr. Neville Georges, seconded by Ms. Blanco-Harvey and approved unanimously.

Olena Nicks, District Clerk