

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, UNIONDALE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT, UNIONDALE, Nassau County, New York was held in the Auditorium of the Uniondale High School on Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at 7:00 PM.

PRESENT: Ms. Charmise Desiré, President; Mr. Justin Brown (Arrived at 6:18 PM), 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; Steven Epstein, Asst. Superintendent for Business Affairs; Olena Nicks, District Clerk; Edward McCarthy, District Counsel;

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

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The Board of Education of the Uniondale Union Free School District was scheduled to meet briefly at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 15, 2020, in the UHS Band Room. At 5:35 p.m. a motion was made by Ms. Eason, seconded by Ms. Blanco-Harvey and approved unanimously to enter into executive session for the purposes of discussing legal matters, personnel matters, contracts and special investigations.

At 6:56 PM Ms. Eason made a motion, seconded by Ms. Blanco-Harvey and approved unanimously to reconvene into public session.

Ms. Desiré called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM with the pledge of allegiance.

### **ROUTINE MATTERS**

A motion was made by Mr. Brown seconded by Dr. Bediako and approved unanimously to accept the minutes of regular meeting on August 25, 2020

A motion was made by Ms. Eason 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.

### **INFORMATION AND REPORTS**

#### **LEGAL**

Mr. McCarthy gave the second reading of the Budget Advisory Committee Charter. He explained it is the boards intention, once volunteers come forward, to formally appoint those members as a part of the committee for the formation of next years' school budget.

A motion was made by Ms. Blanco-Harvey, seconded by Mr. Brown and approved unanimously to adopt the Budget Advisory Committee Charter.

### **ACTING SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

Ms. Taylor welcomed everyone who has joined the meeting, both in-person and virtually. She highlighted that the district has had a successful opening and to date there are no positive COVID-19 cases, this could be accredited to the district spending the summer ensuring the safety of staff and students. Safety has been a priority since April when schools first closed and the re-opening committee was established. Ms. Taylor expressed that she is happy to see the retirees who joined this evening and will be honored later. This year the district opened with over 7,000 scholars and of those 700 are attending in-person. The district has delivered over 3,000 devices throughout the schools. 98% of middle school scholars have received a device which is exceptional since the district is working on being a 1:1 district. She urged that if there are still scholars who are in need, please reach out to your buildings administration so that the technology teams may assist.

Ms. Taylor introduced Mr. Paul Weydig, Supervisor of Transportation. Mr. Weydig stated that he has been working with the district since June of this year and previously worked for one of the largest districts

in New York. He discussed what the buses are doing to meeting CDC guidelines such as operating with windows open, mandatory PPE and social distancing. Routes are being evaluated on a daily basis to ensure the needs of scholars are met. He advised the district will continue working with vendors to address any challenges that may occur.

Ms. Desiré welcomed all the retirees who have joined in person and virtually. The Board of education recognized 19 retirees for their work and dedication to the district throughout the years.

Mr. LaBare, Director of Building and Grounds, advised the boilers are on scheduled to be completed on time, LRMS is currently running and the High School should have boilers running in another week or 2. Mr. LaBare reported that Phase 1 went out for bid at the end of July, all bidders were researched for qualifications and then a report was submitted to the Bond Oversight Advisory Committee. There is a meeting set with the committee, the board and architects to make a final decision on the bid recommendations and ground can be broken in October. He advised that bidders have to meet legal, financial, experience, and financial responsibilities to qualify. They should show they have completed work or able to complete work of this size capacity.

A letter was read on behalf of the Bond Oversight Committee. The letter highlighted the committee's most recent meetings and the concerns they have in the evaluation process of the lowest bidders. The committee addressed some of their questions and concerns of how the pandemic will affect state aid and the project overall.

Mr. Maxwell, Vice President of PTA council, read a letter on behalf of the president Ms. Donna Jackson. The Council's first meeting will be held on September 24th at 7pm via Zoom, unfortunately this meeting was supposed to be a dinner, however due to current circumstances the dinner is not possible.

Mr. Little presented the Treasurers Report & Extra Classroom Report.

### **COMMENTS BY THE BOARD**

Ms. Valencia Hopkins thanked the Board of Education for their generous gift. She started by recognizing the retirees and all they have done for Uniondale. She stated that as student board member she hopes she can advocate for students as best as she can for this year. Collectively, she knows the board will support scholars in the best way they can.

Ms. Eason greeted all attending in person and virtually. She thanked Ms. Taylor for her positive view on school opening. School opening is a work in progress, which she suggested is similar to a live document but real life. She thanked the retirees for their service, most of the retirees she has had the opportunity of knowing and they have touched her life. It is not too late to fill out the census, we need to be counted.

Ms. Blanco-Harvey welcomed everyone and thanked Central Administration and Acting Superintendent Ms. Taylor for a good re-entry. She had the pleasure of walking through the buildings and she can say first hand safety came first. On a daily basis, things may change and this is a work in progress. She wished a happy Independence Day to the Central American countries and the first country she's known, El Salvador. Today begins a month-long celebration of Hispanic heritage. She encouraged everyone to read articles during this time to learn more about the history and culture of this independence. Ms. Blanco-Harvey stated that sending your child back into school is a very personal decision that a parent has to make. She has two children attending Walnut Street School and she believes everything is safe as she has witness social distancing. Her daughter and son were both happy to go back and be in the building physically. She extended her congratulations to the retirees; she appreciates every person who has worked in the district for making our children who they are. Many of those retirees touched her life and her children.

Dr. Bediako stated it is great to finally have an in person meeting, the first for her during her term. She thanked the administration, teacher and staff for doing everything to get school open, they have done a great job all together. She thanked the parents for their patience and working with our administrative staff. Dr. Bediako congratulated the retirees, wishing them safety and enjoyment.

Mr. Brown thanked the retirees for their service, stating that each and every one of them have affected students in some way. He reflected on having some of the retirees as teachers himself. Mr. brown thanked the staff for successful reopening, we still have a long way to go but we need to stay positive. Mr. Brown discussed that as a district, like many across the island, we are under financial stress however he has

confidence our administrators will make it through, however, it is unfair to the district, staff and kids to still have to pay 100% of what's required to charter schools. He believes charter schools will use this opportunity to be able to offer more than the public schools, garnering more support in favor of their programs. We should not have to pay for other schools to improve. Please reach out to local representatives and voice your concerns of these unfair practices.

Ms. Desiré thanked everyone for joining, it was the desire of the board to shift back to normalcy as staff and students have been transitioning in person. Thank you to the retirees that were able to attend. She understands not everyone was able to attend during these trying times. She prays all retirees enjoy and receive a sense of relaxation. Ms. Desiré read an excerpt from a notice that was provided to the board recently. A philanthropist, Mr. Wientge, who has made scholarships possible to deserving scholars in the district over the last years, has passed away, leaving funds to the districts to allow scholarships to continue. From September 15<sup>th</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup> many are acknowledging Hispanic Heritage Month, the Nassau County Office of Hispanic affairs are hosting a number of virtual events, which is a great opportunity to learn about others heritage to seek to understand instead of staying different. Anyone who is interested in serving on the Budget Committee or Audit Committee, please reach out to the district clerk via phone or email. The Census response rate for Uniondale is about 65%, please challenge yourself to ask others if they have completed. There are various challenges and decisions being made at state level, which is why it is important to be registered to vote so we elect someone who sensitive to our community's needs, please do not underestimate the power of your local vote. Starting Monday September 21<sup>st</sup> to September 25<sup>th</sup>, the Kingdom Family Ministry of Uniondale will be offering free COVID antibody testing in partnership with Northwell health. It is best to make reservation; however, walk-ins will be accepted. She thanked the reopening committee, who stated meeting in April and exploring various scenarios and preparing documents for the State. Thank you for your dedication and time and for recognizing our communities are different which makes our strategies very different.

### **COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC**

What is being done for students without Wi-Fi? What is the situation with staffing? Are we short staffed? Live streaming is appreciated but how can those at home participate.

Olga Hernandez

### **Board of Education Action:**

#### **CURRICULUM**

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

**RESOLVED** that approval was granted for the following:

Approval of Academic After School Clubs, Targeted Tutoring and Weekend Activities for the 2020-2021 school year for the following schools: Grand Avenue School, Northern Parkway School, Smith Street School, Walnut Street School, Turtle Hook Middle School, and Uniondale High School

#### **BUSINESS**

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

**RESOLVED** that approval was granted for the following:

Acceptance of Treasurers Report.

Approval of Storm Water Pollution prevention plans

#### **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 Ms. Eason, seconded by Mr. Brown and approve unanimously WHEREIN IT WAS:

**RESOLVED** that approval was granted for the following:

Kimberlee Pierre to attend State Reporting CIO/DDC Meeting on September 16, 2020, October 28, 2020, December 9, 2020, March 3, 2021, April 14, 2021, May 25, 2021 and June 23, 2021 via online platform. No cost to attend.

Dr. Clinton Grant & Dr. Lynnda Nadien to attend Annual Recertification Training for Principal and Teacher Evaluators on October 5, 2020 via online platform. No cost to attend.

Kyriaki Sigler to attend Wilson Reading System 4th Edition 2-Day Institute on October 26-27, 2020 via Western Suffolk BOCES. Cost to attend \$450.00. A2110.130

Kimberlee Pierre to attend SMS - PowerSchool - Calendar Set-Up Workshop on June 9, 2021 via online platform. No cost to attend.

Kimberlee Pierre to attend SMS - PowerSchool - End of Term/Storing Grades on January 29, 2021 & June 2, 2021 via online platform. No cost to attend.

Kimberlee Pierre to attend SMS - PowerSchool - PowerTeacher Pro for Elementary & Secondary Teachers on September 23, 2020 & September 29, 2020 via online platform. No cost to attend.

Kimberlee Pierre to attend SMS - PowerSchool - End of Year Processes on June 11, 2020 via online platform. No cost to attend.

Kimberlee Pierre to attend SMS - PowerSchool - PowerSchool Fall & Spring User Group on December 15, 2020 & May 21, 2021 via online platform. No cost to attend.

Kimberlee Pierre to attend SMS - PowerSchool -New York State Reporting for PowerSchool - Fall & Spring on November 2, 2020 and April 13, 2021 via online platform. No cost to attend.

Kimberlee Pierre to attend SMS - PowerSchool -Data Extracts on November 19, 2020 via online platform. No cost to attend.

Kimberlee Pierre & Ann Ringhauser to attend SMS - PowerSchool -Attendance Functions in PowerSchool on October 5, 2020 via Online Platform. No cost to attend.

Kimberlee Pierre to attend SMS - Powerschool - PowerScheduler: Season Opener on November 17, 2020 via online platform. No cost to attend.

Kimberlee Pierre to attend SMS - PowerSchool - Registration and Enrollment on January 13, 2021 via online platform. No cost to attend.

Wanda Manuel, Andrea Ierardi, and Crystal Byrne to attend Using Google Forms to Create Remote Assessments on September 21, 2020 via online platform. No cost to attend.

Yvonne Vidal to attend How to Create remote Assessments on September 21, 2020 via online platform. No cost to attend.

Ann Ringhauser to attend PowerSchool -Incident Management on November 2, 2020 via online platform. No cost to attend.

Ann Ringhauser to attend PowerSchool -Data Extracts on November 19, 2020 via online platform. No cost to attend.

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

**RESOLVED** that approval was granted for the following:

Ms. Carol Eason and Dr. Bediako to attend The New York State School Boards Association 2020 Convention on October 20-22 and October 27-29, 2020 via online platform. Cost to attend \$260 per attendee.

### **Faculty Personnel**

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

**RESOLVED** that approval was granted for the following:

Approval of the following recommendations for 2020-2021 Mentors, with a stipend of \$1000:

Roni Berk-SSS  
Alison Chaplar-CAS  
Michael Chindamo-SSS  
Phyllis Halper-SSS  
Yuval Malkiel-LRMS  
Meghan O'Neill-SSS  
Theodore Smith-Shubert

Probationary appointment of Nika Chery, a UHS Science Teacher at an annual salary of \$74,660.00 MA+15/Step 1 effective September 16, 2020 to September 15, 2024.

Amended probationary appointment of Santrice Chase, a UHS Social Studies Teacher effective September 16, 2020 to September 15, 2024.

Amended salary and step for Julio Maldonado from \$15,042.00(1/5 of \$75,210 MA/Step 2) to \$14,433.40 (1/5 of 72,167.00 MA/Step 1) effective immediately.

Amended salary and step for Samantha Marrero from \$64,961.00 BA/Step 2(prorated) to \$62,237.00 BA/Step 1(prorated) effective immediately.

Approval of Tenure for Gina Rinaldi, a Smith Street School Teacher effective December 11, 2020

Request for FMLA for Natasha Garrett, a CAS Guidance Counselor effective September 16, 2020 to October 9, 2020.

Request for FMLA for Carrie Rosen, A WSS ALS Reading Teacher effective September 16, 2020 to November 30, 2020.

### **Supplementary Personnel**

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

**RESOLVED** that approval was granted for the following:

Approval of Tenure for Froylan Flower, Northern Parkway School Teaching Assistant effective October 18, 2020

Approval of Tenure for Charisse Bradley, a Northern Parkway School Teaching Assistant effective October 18, 2020.

Approval of Tenure for Maureen Bell, a Smith Street School Teaching Assistant effective December 4, 2020.

Request for an Unpaid Leave from Barbara Cohen, a CAS PT Teaching Assistant effective September 16, 2020 to September 1, 2021.

Request for an Unpaid Leave of Absence for Chalaine Ferguson, a CAS PT Teaching Assistant effective September 16, 2020 to December 1, 2020.

Resignation of Sherri Sullivan, a SSS FT Teaching Assistant effective September 16, 2020.

Resignation of Tehilah DeSuze, a GAS FT Teaching Assistant effective September 16, 2020.

Resignation for purposes of retirement of Elizabeth A. Peranzo, a CAS PT Teaching Assistant effective September 16, 2020.

Resignation of Tajiri Bradley, a THMS PT Teaching Assistant effective September 16, 2020.

Resignation of Elina Aquino, a WSS PT Teaching Assistant effective September 16, 2020.

### **Non-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:

Appointment of Melissa Gilkey, a Typist Clerk at an annual salary of \$39,520.00 Step 2- prorated, effective September 22, 2020 to March 23, 2021.

Appointment of Jamie Cestaro, a Typist Clerk at an annual salary of \$39,520.00 Step 2-Prorated effective April 8, 2021.

Request for an Unpaid Leave from Silvia Romero, a WSS PT Lunch Monitor effective September 16, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

Request for an Unpaid Leave from Melda Edwards, a CAS & NPS Lunch Monitor effective September 16, 2020

Resignation of Michael Hunter, a PT Security Aide effective August 6, 2020.

### **Substitute Personnel**

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

**RESOLVED** that approval was granted for the following:

Approval of the following non-certified substitute effective September 16, 2020 at a rate of \$100 per day: Travis Morrison

Approval of the following Typist Clerk PT Sub at a rate of \$15 per hour: Masany Cruz

Appointment of Brenda Viera, a WSS Permanent Substitute Teacher at a rate of \$140.00 per day effective September 16, 2020.

Appointment of Michael Ambrogio, a SSS Permanent Substitute Teacher at a rate of \$140.00 per day effective September 16, 2020.

Appointment of Rachel Stamile, a Shubert Permanent Substitute Teacher at a rate of \$140.00 per day effective September 16, 2020.

Appointment of Nicholas Rusinyak, a LRMS Permanent Substitute Teacher at a rate of \$140.00 per day effective September 16, 2020.

Appointment of Jaimie Lartin, a UHS Permanent Substitute Teacher at a rate of \$140.00 per day effective September 16, 2020.

Resignation of Jenna Sapienza, a Per-Diem Subs Agenda Type Resignation of Jenna Sapienza, a Per-Diem Substitute Teacher effective September 16, 2020.

Resignation of Jordan Draper, a CAS Permanent Substitute effective September 16, 2020.

Resignation of Dominique Curtis, a NPS Permanent Substitute effective September 16, 2020.

Resignation of Nicholas Swing, a LRMS Permanent Substitute effective September 16, 2020.

Resignation of Demetrius Lutz, a THMS Permanent Substitute effective September 16, 2020.

Resignation of Andrew Field, a WSS Permanent Substitute Teacher effective September 16, 2020.

Resignation of Alexandra Duca, a WSS Permanent Substitute effective September 16, 2020.

Resignation of Claudia Fuentes, a UHS Permanent Substitute effective September 16, 2020.

### **Athletics Recommendations**

Upon the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent of Schools, motion was made by Ms. Desiré, seconded by Ms. Eason and approved unanimously to indefinitely postpone the following due to the delay of the Fall 2020 sports season:

Approval of the recommendations for coaches for the 2020-2021 school year.

### **Continuing Education**

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 Pearline Everett as Supervisor of the Continuing Education and the following Continuing Education Program Virtual Instructors:

Athan Davies -----Beginner's Spanish  
 Athan Davies----- Intermediate Spanish  
 Athan Davies -----Advanced Spanish  
 Athan Davies -----Beginner's French  
 Michelle Jenkins --Line Dance for A Purpose  
 Robert Johnson ---Overcoming the Fear of Public Speaking  
 George Knight ----English as a Second Language (ESL)  
 Jigisha Mehta----- Fitness Yoga  
 Elvia Reynolds----- Zumba  
 Dina DiRoma----- Notary Public Training  
 Monica P. Ruela, Esq---- Elder Law Workshop

A motion was made at 9:30 PM by Ms. Blanco-Harvey, seconded by Mr. Brown and approved unanimously enter into executive session to discuss the history of an employee, and litigation.

A motion was made at 10:26 PM by Ms. Blanco-Harvey, seconded by Ms. Eason and approved unanimously to reconvene into public session.

A motion was made at 10:27 PM by Dr. Bediako, seconded by Ms. Eason and approved unanimously to adjourn the board meeting.

Olena Nicks, District Clerk