NOTICE OF MEETING:

TO ALL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Township of Union will be held on January 28, 2014 at 7 p.m. at the Union High School Library, North Third Street, Union, New Jersey 07083

 The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Township of Union was held at Union High School Library, North Third Street, Union, New Jersey on January 28, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. pursuant to notice sent to each member.

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL: Mr. David Arminio, Dr. Guy Francis, Mr. Richard Galante, Ms. Lois Jackson, Mr. Thomas Layden, Mr. Vito Nufrio, Mr. Angel Salcedo and Mr. Francis Perkins, President

ABSENT AT ROLL CALL: Ms. Susana Cooley

 Mr. Perkins called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

 Ms. Jackson led the board and audience members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

 Mr. Damato read the statement required under the “Open Public Meetings Act” a copy of which is on file in the office of the Secretary.

PRESENTATION TO FORMER BOARD MEMBER VERSIE MC NEIL

Mr. Perkins presented Mrs. McNeil with a plaque acknowledging her seven years of service on the board as well as a Citation from the New Jersey State Legislature (Assemblyman Cryan, Senator Lesniak and Assemblywoman Quijano) which recognizes all of Mrs. McNeil’s efforts for the Union Township Board of Education. Mr. Perkins thanked Mrs. McNeil for her service on the board of education.

Dr. Martin thanked Mrs. McNeil on behalf of all of the children in the district who have benefited from Mrs. McNeil’s decisions and service.

Mrs. McNeil said that it had been a joy working with everyone at the board and her advice for the new board members was to focus on the students in the district. She said that it had been a pleasure serving on the board and she wanted to thank the State Legislature for their recognition. Mrs. McNeil said that she had gained much knowledge during her time on the board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

 Moved by Mr. Galante, seconded by Mr. Nufrio that the minutes of the Worksession of November 12, 2013; the Regular Meeting of November 19, 2013; Executive Session of November 19, 2013; Worksession of December 10, 2013 and Special Meeting of December 12, 2013 be approved:

AYE: Mr. Arminio, Dr. Francis, Mr. Galante, Mr. Layden, Mr. Nufrio and Mr. Perkins

 NAY: None

 ABSTAIN: Ms. Jackson and Mr. Salcedo

 Moved by Mr. Galante, seconded by Mr. Nufrio that the minutes of the Executive Session of December 5, 2013 be approved:

 AYE: Dr. Francis, Mr. Galante, Mr. Layden, Mr. Nufrio and Mr. Perkins

 NAY: None

 ABSTAIN: Mr. Arminio, Ms. Jackson and Mr. Salcedo

COMMUNICATION

REQUEST FOR MATERNITY AND UNPAID FAMILY LEAVE – BALLARD

Katie L. Ballard, teacher at Battle Hill Elementary School, for submitted a request for maternity and unpaid family leaves, for the period February 1, 2014 through May 31, 2014.

REQUEST USE OF JEFFERSON SCHOOL GYMNASIUM – TOWNSHIP OF UNION EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Susan Lipstein, President of Township of Union Education Foundation submitted a request for use and waiver of fees for Jefferson School gymnasium and cafeteria on Thursday, May 22, 2014 from 5 to 8 p.m. for the annual spring Foundation reception.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION (RETIREMENT) – MUTASCIO

Letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement from Nicholas C Mutascio, custodian at the Administration Building, effective March 1, 2014.

REQUEST TO CHANGE DATES OF MATERNITY AND UNPAID FAMILY LEAVES – MC CARTNEY

Jennifer McCartney, English teacher at Burnet Middle School, submitted a request to change maternity and unpaid family leaves to the period November 15, 2013 through June 16, 2014.

REQUEST FOR USE OF UNION HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL FIELD – NEW YORK GIANTS YOUTH FOOTBALL CAMPS

Michael Gross, Operations Director of New York Giants Youth Football Camps submitted a request to use Union High School football field and gymnasium for the period July 21 through July 25, 2014.

REQUEST FOR MATERNITY AND UNPAID FAMILY LEAVES – SMITH

Kathryn Smith, resource room teacher at Union High School, submitted a request for maternity, unpaid family leaves for the period December 17, 2013 through the end of the 2013-2014 school year.

REQUEST FOR UNPAID EXTENDED CHILD REARING LEAVE – DOUGHERTY

Lauren Dougherty, English teacher at Kawameeh Middle School, submitted a request for unpaid extended child rearing leave, for the period February 12th through the end of the 2013-2014 school year.

REQUEST FOR USE OF UNION HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL AND PRACTICE FIELDS – INVESTORS SAVINGS BANK NEW JERSEY NORTH-SOUTH ALL-STAR FOOTBALL CLASSIC

Ken Trimmer, Game Director, Investors Savings Bank New Jersey North-South All-Star Football Classic submitted a request to use Union High School Football and practice fields for 2014 Phil Simms New Jersey North-South All-Star Football Game to be held on Monday, June 23, 2014.

REQUEST FOR EXTENDED UNPAID SICK LEAVE – COLFORD

Jane J. Colford, teacher at Franklin School, submitted a request for extended unpaid sick leave through March 16, 2014.

REQUEST FOR CHANGE OF MATERNITY AND UNPAID FAMILY LEAVE – GORDON

Patricia Gordon, School Psychologist at Battle Hill School, submitted a request for change of maternity and unpaid family leaves for the period January 21, 2014 through the end of the 2013-2014 school year

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

 Dr. Martin had some data that he wanted to bring to the board and the public’s attention. He said that all of this data shows growth within the district.

 Dr. Martin said that the attendance for December 2013 is as follows: Students – 95.05% that is up from last December when the attendance was 94.37% and Staff – 93.5 % that is up from 93.4% last year. He said that overall, attendance this year has been better. Dr. Martin said that there is a direct correlation between students and staff being in the classroom together and higher achievement.

 Dr. Martin said that ARAMARK the district’s food service vendor has reported that the breakfast meals is now up to 808 meals served per day which is up from 538 meals from last year. He said that the board has made this a priority over the past couple of years because there are studies that show students who eat breakfast do better and achieve more academically during a school day. Dr. Martin said that students are participating to a much higher extent in the breakfast program is a good sign. He said that there are also 87 more lunches being served each day than there were last year at this time. Dr. Martin thought that the breakfast statistic was a step in the right direction and if any parents were listening to the board meeting tonight, he encouraged them to make sure that their children have a good breakfast before coming to school and if that was not possible ARAMARK was ready and willing to provide students with a good breakfast.

 Dr. Martin said that the number of bullying incidents in the schools. He said that by state law, superintendents of each school district at their January board meeting have to report to the board of education and the community how the school district is reporting in the area of bullying cases. He stated that the district is doing better this year in this area. Dr. Martin gave the following report of HIB incidents from September 2013 through December 2013.

 Battle Hill Elementary School had 2 reported cases which was same amount as was reported last year. The status of the reports was complete; the investigator is Christina Birstler and the nature of the reports were 2 other distinguishing characteristics; there was no discipline imposed on either student.

 Burnet Middle School had 4 reported cases which is down from 9 incidents last year. The status of the reports was complete; the investigator is Tara Calandria and the nature of the reports were 1 race, 1 origin, 2 sexual orientation and 2 other distinguishing characteristics; the discipline imposed was 1 teacher detention; 1 warning and 1 Saturday detention.

 Connecticut Farms Elementary School had 0 reported cases which is down from 4 last year. The status of the reports was not applicable; the investigator is Jeannette Trimuda and the nature of the reports and discipline imposed was not applicable.

 Franklin Elementary School had 0 reported cases but they also had 0 incidents last year. The status of the reports was not applicable; the investigator is Erin Jackson and the nature of the reports and discipline imposed was not applicable.

 Hannah Caldwell Elementary School had 4 reported cases which was down from 7 last year. The status of the reports was complete; the investigator was Susan Strumpf; the nature of the reports was 4 other distinguishing characteristics and the discipline imposed was 2 lunch detentions, 2 parent conferences and 1 social skills group.

 Jefferson School had 0 reported cases which is down from 6 incidents last year. The status of the reports was not applicable; the investigator is Karen Hoffman and the nature of the reports and discipline imposed was not applicable.

 Kawameeh Middle School had 1 reported case which is down from 19 incidents last year. The status of the reports was complete; the investigator is Jill Hall and the nature of the report was confirmed based upon mental, physical or sensory characteristics and other distinguishing characteristics; the discipline imposed was a warning from the vice principal.

 Livingston Elementary School had 1 reported case which was up from zero last year. The status of the reports was complete; the investigator was Dr. Lishak and the nature of the report was other distinguishing characteristics and the discipline imposed was not applicable.

 Union High School had 30 reported cases which was up from 27 last year. The status of those reports was complete; the investigator was Lucille Williams; the nature of the reports were other distinguishing characteristics and conflict resolution was utilized for the discipline imposed.

 Washington Elementary School had 0 reports which was down from 1 last year. The status of the report was not applicable; the investigator was Kimberly Marano and the nature of the report and the discipline imposed were not applicable.

 Dr. Martin said that in summary, the number of bullying reports districtwide was 42 but at this time last year he was reporting that 69 reports were made in the district. He said that this was a quite a drop in incidents from last year. Dr. Martin thanked the building principals and guidance counselors for doing a terrific job. He said that Dr. Lishak is the district Anti-Bullying Coordinator and she works with Mr. Damato continually reviewing the cases. Dr. Martin said that the incidents of bullying in the district is decidedly down.

 Dr. Martin said that he wanted to list the trainings and programs that are provided in the district that are creating this positive trend. He said that the training offered in the district are: Anti-Bullying faculty and staff training sessions; Anti-Bullying Specialists training sessions; Anti-Bullying parent workshops; Anti-Bullying kick-off student assemblies and the Safety Team Task Force meeting.

Dr. Martin said that the programs in the district are: The Karate Bully Prevention Assembly featuring Robert Nichols; The Week of Respect; The Districtwide Think Peace, Wear Blue Day; Unity Day; School Violence Awareness Week; Red Ribbon Week; monthly classroom anti-bullying lessons; anti-bullying quote of the day; The Hero in the Hallway; The National Guard Presentation; Merck Community Works; The New Jersey Child Assault Prevention Program; The Prasmatic Laser Show – Anti-Bullying Assembly; The Peer Leader Program which has fourth grade students train for their role as peer mediators; The STAR (Show Tolerance and Respect) Program – where students drew a picture or wrote on a star what respect meant to them; The Unity Project – students wrote on an orange strip what they could do to make their school a safer place for their peers; The Recipe for Respect Project – each class worked together to decide what ingredients they needed to create a recipe for respect; The Generation Text Program – this is an anti-bullying program that teaches anti-bullying behaviors; The PBSIS (Positive Behaviors Support in Students) – an anti-bullying kickoff with all the students; The Purple Ribbon Recognition – students and staff may nominate members of the school community to receive a purple ribbon in recognition of an act of kindness or intervening in a situation that could escalate into harassment, intimidation or bullying; Peace Cranes – the Kawameeh Middle School has established a goal to create and display 1,000 origami cranes in the lobby of the building. These cranes represent peace according to the Japanese tradition. Students are encouraged to offer a peer a peace crane if there is a conflict. This gesture indicates the desire to resolve the problem.

 Dr. Martin said that there were three groups in the district that needed to be mentioned and they are the Lunch Bunch Groups that talk about various topics including friendships and conflict resolution; the Boys-to-Men Group and the Friendship Group for Grade. He said that all of these programs, clubs and activities are moving the district in the right direction which is farther away from conflict, intimidation and bullying which is a great thing.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON RESOLUTIONS ON THE AGENDA

 None

EDUCATION/STUDENT DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE

 Moved by Dr. Francis, seconded by Mr. Layden that the following resolutions be adopted:

E-1. AMEND LIST OF STUDENTS REMOVED FROM THE ROLLS

That the board amend list of students removed from the rolls [three (3) students removed for the period December 1 through December 31, 2013 for a total of ten (10) for the 2013-2014 school year] in accordance with the information appended to the nonpublic portion of these minutes.

E-2. AMEND LIST OF OUT OF DISTRICT ATYPICAL STUDENT PLACEMENT

That the board amend list of out of district atypical student placement and exits and home instructors for the 2013-2014 school year in accordance with the information appended to the nonpublic portion of these minutes.

E-3. APPROVE TUITION CONTRACT AGREEMENT – BURLINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

That the board approve Tuition Contract Agreement with Burlington Township Board of Education for the period December 9, 2013 through June 23, 2014 in accordance with the information appended to the nonpublic portion of these minutes.

E-4. AMEND DISTRICTWIDE EMERGENCY PLAN FOR FACULTY AND STAFF FOR 2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR

That the board amend Districtwide Emergency Plan for Faculty and Staff for 2013-2014 in accordance with the information appended to the nonpublic portion of these minutes.

E-5. APPROVE ESTABLISHMENT OF AUTISIM PROGRAM – BURNET MIDDLE SCHOOL

That the board approve the establishment of an Autism program at Burnet Middle School effective February 1, 2014 in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

DISCUSSION:

 None

AYE: Mr. Arminio, Dr. Francis, Mr. Galante, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Layden, Mr. Nufrio, Mr. Salcedo and Mr. Perkins

 NAY: None

 ABSTAIN: None MOTION WAS CARRIED

FISCAL AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

 Moved by Ms. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Galante that the following resolutions be adopted:

F-1. ACCEPT TREASURER’S REPORT

That the board accept the Treasurer’s Report dated December 31, 2013.

F-2. ACCEPT SECRETARY’S REPORT

That the board accept the Secretary’s Report dated December 31, 2013.

F-3. CERTIFY TREASURER’S AND SECRETARY’S REPORTS

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(a), I certify that as of December 31, 2013 no budgetary line item account has obligations and payments (contractual orders) which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the district board of education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8 and 18:22-8.1.

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 James J. Damato Board Secretary Date

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.2(h), we certify that as of December 31, 2013 after review of the secretary’s financial report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials that to the best of our knowledge no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.2(d) 3 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district’s financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year. This certification is solely based upon the information provided by the School Business Administrator and Board Secretary and is assumed by the board to be correct.

F-4. APPROVE LINE ITEM TRANSFERS

That the board approve line item transfers in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

F-5. APPROVE ATTACHED LIST OF CONTRACTS AND/OR PURCHASE ORDERS

That the board approve the attached list of contracts and/or purchase orders pursuant to the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5 and 8A:18A-10(a) and in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

F-6. APPROVE DISTRICTWIDE TRAVEL AND RELATED EXPENSES

That the board approve districtwide travel and related expenses pursuant to the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:11-12, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7 and Board Policy File Code 6471 and in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

F-7. PREAPPROVE STUDENT FIELD TRIP DESTINATIONS AND PURPOSES

That the board pre approve student field trip destinations and purposes pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.8 in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

F-8. APPROVE ATTACHED LIST OF CONTRACTS/AND OR PURCHASES

That the board approve attached list of contracts and/or purchases pursuant to the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5(21) in accordance with the information appended to these minutes: (a) Forest Lodge, LLC - $1,600 – 2nd installment for 8th grade End of Year Trip – Kawameeh Middle School; (b) Yankee Candle Fundraising - $4,611.71 – student counsel fundraiser – Kawameeh Middle School; (c) Cherrydale Farms - $7,338.70 – student council fundraiser – Kawameeh Middle School; (d) AYR Graphics & Printing, Inc. – not to exceed $1,800 – field hockey sweatsuits – Union High School Athletic Department

F-9. ACCEPT DONATIONS

That the board accept the following donations: (a) Lifetouch National School Studio - $984 for use by Connecticut Farms School; (b) Lifetouch National School Studio - $1,235.50 for use by Hannah Caldwell School; (c) Target - $52.13 for use by Jefferson School; (d) Lifetouch National School Studio - $1,165 for use by Jefferson School

F-10. APPROVE AMENDMENT OF FY14 NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND GRANT

That the board approve amendment of FY14 No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Grant to include FY13 NCLB Carry-Over Funds as follows:

 Title I-A $386,590

 Title II-A 3,372

 Title III 2,928

 TOTAL $392,890

DISCUSSION:

 Mr. Perkins asked Mr. Vieira to comment on resolution F-10. Mr. Vieira said that the $392,890 referred to in the resolution is appropriations from the 2012-2013 NCLB grant year that were not spent and the district is allowed to amend the 2013-2014 NCLB grant in that amount and these funds will be spent during the 2013-2014 school year.

AYE: Mr. Arminio, Dr. Francis, Mr. Galante, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Layden, Mr. Nufrio, Mr. Salcedo and Mr. Perkins

 NAY: None

 ABSTAIN: None MOTION WAS CARRIED

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

 Moved by Mr. Layden, seconded by Mr. Salcedo that the following resolutions be adopted:

O-1. APPROVE BUS EMERGENCY EVACUATION AND SECURITY DRILL REPORTS

That pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:17-11.2 the board approve bus emergency evacuation and security drill reports in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

O-2. AFFIRM SUPERINTENDENT’S RESOLUTION OF HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION AND BULLYING CONCLUSIONS

That the board affirm the Superintendent’s resolution of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) conclusions for the period December 8, 2013 through January 13, 2014

O-3. APPROVE CONTINGENCY CHANGE ORDER #3 – SPARTAN CONSTRUCTION, INC.

That the board approve Contingency Change Order #3 from Spartan Construction, Inc., P.O. Box 1017, Oakhurst, New Jersey for Repair of one window at Franklin Elementary School in connection with the Cupola Refurbishment in the deduct amount of $2,092 leaving a balance in the owner’s contingency reserve of $42,908 in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

O-4. ACCEPT DONATIONS – TOWNSHIP OF UNION EDUCATION FOUNDATION

That the board accept donations from Township of Union Education Foundation in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

O-5. APPROVE WAIVER OF FEES TO USE JEFFERSON SCHOOL – TOWNSHIP OF UNION EDUCATION FOUNDATION

That the board approve waiver of fees to Township of Union Education Foundation for use of Jefferson School gymnasium and cafeteria on Thursday, May 22, 2014 for their annual reception.

O-6. APPROVE USE OF HAMILTON SCHOOL – UNION POLICE DEPARTMENT

That the board approve use of Hamilton School by the Union Police Department on January 30th and 31st 2014 for training of police department employees (one instructor and four police officers).

DISCUSSION:

 Mr. Nufrio asked if the amount listed in resolution O-3 was in addition to what was allocated or is that the contracted expense. Mr. Damato said that it is additional funds but when the project was set up, there was a contingency fund established. He said that this money is coming out of the contingency reserve and whatever is not spent in that contingency reserve account will come back to the district and be kept by the board. Mr. Nufrio asked what happened with the existing window that caused it to have to be replaced. Mr. Wiggins said that the window was damaged beyond repair and a new window was required.

AYE: Mr. Arminio, Dr. Francis, Mr. Galante, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Layden, Mr. Nufrio, Mr. Salcedo and Mr. Perkins

 NAY: None

 ABSTAIN: None MOTION WAS CARRIED

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

 Moved by Mr. Galante, seconded by Ms. Jackson that the following resolutions be adopted:

P-1. APPROVE PERSONNEL ACTIONS

That the board approve personal actions in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

P-2. AMEND SUBSTITUTE LISTS

That the board amend Substitute/Home Instruction List; Substitute Custodians, Substitute Cafeteria/Playground Aides, Teacher Assistants and Secretaries for the 2013-2014 school year in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

P-3. ACCEPT LETTERS OF RESIGNATION

That the board accept letters of resignation from the following staff: (a) Nicholas C. Mutascio, custodian at the Administration Building, effective March 1, 2014 (retirement)

P-4. APPROVE VARIOUS LEAVES FOR STAFF

That the board approve various leaves for the following staff: (a) Katie L. Ballard, teacher at Battle Hill Elementary School, maternity and unpaid family leaves for the period February 1, 2014 through May 31, 2014; (b) Jennifer McCartney, English teacher at Burnet Middle School, maternity and unpaid family leaves for the period November 15, 2013 through June 16, 2014; (c) Kathryn Smith, resource room teacher at Union High School, maternity and unpaid family leaves for the period December 17, 2013 through the end of the 2013-2014 school year; (d) Lauren Dougherty, English teacher at Kawameeh Middle School, extended child rearing leave for the period February 12, 2013 through the end of the 2013-2014 school year; (e) Jane J. Colford, teacher at Franklin Elementary School, extended unpaid sick time through March 16, 2014; (f) Patricia Gordon, School Psychologist, Battle Hill School maternity and unpaid family leaves for the period January 21, 2013 through the end of the 2013-2014 school year

P-5. APPROVE BEDSIDE INSTRUCTION – SILVERGATE PREP

That the board approve Silvergate Prep, 10 Finderne Avenue, Bridgewater, NJ 08807 to provide bedside instruction for district students on an “as needed” basis for the period December 1, 2013 through February 28, 2014 in an amount not to exceed $5,500 in accordance with the information appended to these minutes. (Acct #7693/11-150-100-320-01-19)

P-6. APPROVE AUDIOLOGIC ASSESSMENTS – MOUNTAIN LAKES PUBLIC SCHOOLS

That the board approve Mountain Lakes Public Schools to provide complete audiologic assessments at a rate of $600 per evaluation (children under the age of 5 or those students who demonstrate developmental delays and/or cognitive limitations will require the use of a second audiologist for testing at an additional fee of $150 per evaluation) in an amount not to exceed $3,000 for the 2013-2014 school year in accordance with the information appended to these minutes. (Acct #11-000-219-320-01-19)

P-7. APPROVE NURSING SERVICES – DELTA-T GROUP

That the board approve Delta-T Group, P.O. Box 884, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010 to provide nursing services to district students at a rate of $41.75 per hour for a licensed registered nurse and $33 per hour for licensed practical nurse in an amount not to exceed $80,000 for the 2013-2014 school in accordance with the information appended to these minutes. Delta-T Group has been awarded the bid to provide nursing services by the Middlesex Educational Regional Services Commission. (Acct # 11-000-216-320-01-19)

P-8. APPROVE PARENT WORKSHOPS AT BURNET MIDDLE SCHOOL

That the board approve Tara Calandrea to present the following parent workshops at Burnet Middle School auditorium at a rate of $38.25 per hour not to exceed four (4) hours per session: (a) Tuesday, January 28, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. – Study Skills and Organizational Skills for your Child; (b) Wednesday, February 5, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. – Making Homework Less Work; (c) Wednesday, March 5, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. – Improving Parent and Child Communication and (d) Wednesday, April 2, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. – Respect Begins with “YOU”. The workshops will be funded through Title I (Acct#20-231-200-300-31-20-0011).

P-9. APPROVE HALF-DAY SMART NOTEBOOK TRAINING – KEYBOARD CONSULTANTS

That the board approve Keyboard Consultants, 6 Kingsbridge Road, Fairfield, New Jersey to present half-day SMART notebook Training at Franklin Elementary School on February 14, 2014 at a cost not to exceed $695.

DISCUSSION:

 None

AYE: Mr. Arminio, Dr. Francis, Mr. Galante, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Layden, Mr. Nufrio, Mr. Salcedo and Mr. Perkins

 NAY: None

 ABSTAIN: None MOTION WAS CARRIED

POLICY COMMITTEE

 Moved by Mr. Arminio, seconded by Mr. Layden that the following resolution be adopted:

POL-1 APPROVE FILE CODE 5141.5 – STUDENT SUICIDE PREVENTION AND CRISIS INTERVENTION

That the board approve File Code 5141.5 - Student Suicide Prevention and Crisis Intervention - Policy and Procedure in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

DISCUSSION

 Mr. Perkins asked Mr. Damato to give the board a little background on how the policy was changing. Mr. Damato said that there were fairly significant change made to the policy. He said that a lot of the changes came from the hard work of Ms. Conti and others in the district that collaborated on the policy to come up with a policy and procedure that complies with the latest developments in the law and the latest thinking with regard to student behaviors, managing conflicts and things of that nature. Mr. Damato said that the changes were made over the course of many months and many meetings and now he feels the policy and procedure meets all of the district’s needs and definitely is in the best interest of the students and the school district.

 Mr. Perkins said that it was his understanding that all of the stakeholders and staff in the district who have knowledge in this area have had input in and have had discussions with Mr. Damato and Mr. Arminio in the development of the policy. Mr. Damato said that there were a great deal of discussions with regard to the policy, the regulations, the forms and different types of medical evaluations that were considered to be acceptable. He said that all of that was taken into consideration.

 Mr. Perkins said that revising policies can be daunting work in that it requires a lot of reading, discussion and time in putting together the development of a policy and he appreciated the efforts of Mr. Arminio and Mr. Damato in this regard.

AYE: Mr. Arminio, Dr. Francis, Mr. Galante, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Layden, Mr. Nufrio, Mr. Salcedo and Mr. Perkins

 NAY: None

 ABSTAIN: None MOTION WAS CARRIED

APPROVAL OF BILLS

 Moved by Ms. Jackson, seconded by Dr. Francis that the Board concur with the bills listed in the permanent bound register appended to these minutes and be ordered for payment.

AYE: Mr. Arminio, Dr. Francis, Mr. Galante, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Layden, Mr. Nufrio, Mr. Salcedo and Mr. Perkins

 NAY: None

 ABSTAIN: None MOTION WAS CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

 Mr. Arminio said that he noticed on the board of education meeting schedule that a planning session meeting was not scheduled for this coming year. He asked if the board would have such a meeting.

 Mr. Arminio said that on Friday, January 17th, Washington School had a blood drive and twice the amount of blood was donated than was expected.

 Mr. Arminio said that he heard that the Jefferson School project went over budget. He asked Mr. Vieira for the final numbers of the completion of the project. Mr. Vieira said that the final numbers have not yet been received but he said that the project was completed under budget. He said that as soon as all of the vendors have been paid, he would give the board a final report on the costs of the project.

 Mr. Arminio said that on January 20th, there was a celebration held at Hannah Caldwell School for Martin Luther King Day. He said that Dr. Francis was the keynote speaker at the presentation and his discussion of what got him to where he is in life now was heartfelt and inspiring. Mr. Arminio hoped that all of the young people in attendance took this to heart.

NEW BUSINESS

 Mr. Arminio said that the Girls’ Track Team placed second in the Union County Indoor Winter Track Championship. He said that there were some notable performances at this meet; Hyisha Bishalou had a meet record in the 55 meter dash of 7.07, breaking her own record of last year and she placed second in the 400 meter run; Jennifer Adobe placed first in the 800 meter run and in the shot put, Taylor Whitaker, placed first with a toss of 35 feet 7-1/4 inches to become the County Champion.

 Mr. Perkins said that he had occasion to speak to a varsity coach from another high school in a neighboring community and he discussed with him the athletic program at Union High School. Mr. Perkins said that this individual could not offer enough praise to the professionalism of Union’s Athletic Staff. He said that this was noteworthy because this is an individual who participates in the tight circle that is the coaching community in the schools in New Jersey who told him that the athletic staff of the Union Public Schools has a really good reputation.

 Mr. Perkins said that New Jersey School Report Cards were issued earlier in the day and he had an opportunity to take a look at how Union Schools did on that report. He said that one of the things that impressed him was that the fact that New Jersey is the first state to consider in performance the reviews of the teaching of the arts in their schools. Mr. Perkins said that he has been pushing for STEAM instead of STEM within the district. He said that he was really gratified to see that the ability of students in the Arts are considered in the evaluation of the effectiveness of the schools.

 Dr. Martin said that Commissioner Cerf pointed out in his comments that it really has been shown that students who participate in the Arts do better academically. He said that he thought it was great that Union Public Schools had such a great commitment to the Arts.

 Mr. Perkins said that last weekend there was a program put on at the high school “Union Celebrates Broadway” the performances, which included children from first grade through seniors in the high school, were pieces from various Broadway musicals. He said that there were over 1,000 people in attendance at the high school. Mr. Perkins said that the show was very impressive.

 Mr. Perkins said that he agreed with Mr. Arminio that a Planning Session of the board should be scheduled. He thought that he and Mr. Arminio should be an Ad Hoc Committee to set up goals to be discussed by the board.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

 Mrs. Cuccinello said that she works at Burnet Middle School. She said that it has come to the attention of teachers and staff at Burnet Middle School that an individual, who no longer works at Burnet Middle School approached the board regarding the faculty lounge. Mrs. Cuccinello said that over the past summer, the custodial staff did a wonderful job painting the room. She said that the former employee is requesting that the lounge be put back into its original color and condition. Mrs. Cuccinello said that it seems to the staff at Burnet that it is a counter-productive measure and the expenditure of time and effort to repaint the room when there are other items that need to be done in the building and it seems hard to believe that the board would entertain an idea like that. Mrs. Cuccinello said that there is a teacher at Burnet who, with her students, would like to update the lounge by replacing the old curtains and other items in the room that are old and dirty. She said that the room had not been painted in a long time and the people at Burnet do not understand why the someone who is no longer a part of the building be empowered to decide what should and should not be in the teachers’ lounge and the staff of Burnet Middle School is respectfully requesting that the board maintain the current condition of the lounge and allow the teachers and staff to update it. Mrs. Cuccinello presented Mr. Perkins with a petition which was signed by members of the faculty and staff at Burnet Middle School.

MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Moved by Mr. Arminio, seconded by Mr. Nufrio that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters without the presence of the public in accordance with the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 10:4- 2b.* 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, Mr. Galante, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Layden, Mr. Nufrio, Mr. Salcedo and Mr. Perkins

 NAY: None

 ABSTAIN: None MOTION WAS CARRIED

THE BOARD RETURNED TO PUBLIC SESSION

 Moved by Mr. Layden, seconded by Mr. Arminio that the board approve the resolution of Grievance HS 13-09 and HS 13-03 in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

AYE: Mr. Arminio, Dr. Francis, Mr. Galante, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Layden, Mr. Nufrio, Mr. Salcedo and Mr. Perkins

 NAY: None

 ABSTAIN: None MOTION WAS CARRIED

MOTION TO ADJOURN

 There being no further business before the board, it was moved by Mr. Nufrio seconded by Mr. Arminio that the meeting be adjourned.

 Respectfully submitted

 JAMES J. DAMATO

 BOARD SECRETARY