

TOWNSHIP OF UNION BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL MEETING/EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES  
April 14, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.

NOTICE OF MEETING:

TO ALL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS:

The special meeting/executive session of the Board of Education of the Township of Union was held on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. at the Union High School Library, 2350 North Third Street, Union, New Jersey pursuant to the notice sent to each member.

Mr. McDowell called the meeting to order at 5:46 p.m.

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Yocasta Brens-Watson, Dr. Guy Francis, Mr. Ronnie McDowell, Mr. John O'Shea, Mrs. Nellis Regis-Darby, Mrs. Mary Lynn Williams

ABSENT AT ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Nancy Minneci, Dr. Kalisha Morgan (arrived 5:52 p.m.), Mrs. Kim Ruiz (arrived 5:57 p.m.)

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Mrs. Yolanda Koon

ALSO PRESENT:

Ms. Kendal Longmore, Esq., Mrs. Gwen Thornton (NJSBA Field Representative) via Zoom

Mrs. Williams led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Koon read the statement required under the "Open Public Meetings Act", a copy of which is on file in the office of the Board Secretary.

Mr. O'Shea read the District's mission statement.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Ann Margaret Shannon stated president of the UTEA. She stated that she wanted to wish the Board of Education good luck in the superintendent search. She stated that the UTEA wanted to be part of the search and that the members and community would have been an amazing source for the Board of Education.

Rich D'Avanzo stated UTEA vice president and asked will you share the final four candidates. Mr. McDowell stated no, not right now.

Mr. D'Avanzo stated we heard for a long time about transparency and there was no transparency here. Mr. McDowell stated normally we would not respond but I need to say that these candidates are putting their careers at risk by coming here. We can't publicize their names because we don't want to jeopardize their employment.

He stated that as far as transparency, the public and staff had an opportunity to give input on the survey that was on the district website.

Dr. Morgan arrived at meeting at 5:52 p.m.

It is the Board's sole responsibility to hire a superintendent. Mr. D'Avanzo stated in the beginning the community should have been involved.

**MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Moved by Mrs. Regis-Darby, seconded by Mrs. Williams, that the Board go into Executive Session at 5:53 p.m. to discuss the following subject matters without the presence of the public in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b: superintendent search; personnel.

AYE: Mrs. Brens-Watson, Dr. Francis, Dr. Morgan, Mr. O'Shea, Mrs. Regis-Darby, Mrs. Williams, Mr. McDowell

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

The Board returned to public session at 9:25 p.m.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:**

There being no further business before the Board in public session it was moved by Mr. O'Shea, seconded by Mrs. Regis-Darby, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:26 p.m. All present voting YES MOTION CARRIED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

YOLANDA KOON  
BOARD SECRETARY