

UNION TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC BUDGET MINUTES
APRIL 29, 2015

NOTICE OF MEETING:

TO ALL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS:

The public budget meeting of the Board of Education of the Township of Union will be held on Wednesday, April 29, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at Union High School Auditorium, 2400 North Third Street, Union, New Jersey 07083

The public budget meeting of the Board of Education of the Township of Union will be held on Wednesday, April 29, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at Union High School Auditorium, 2400 North Third Street, Union, New Jersey pursuant to notice sent to each member.

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:

Mr. David Arminio, Dr. Guy Francis, Mr. Richard Galante, Mr. Ron McDowell, Mr. Angel Salcedo, Ms. Nancy Zuena

ABSENT AT ROLL CALL:

Ms. Lois Jackson, Mr. Thomas Layden, Mr. Vito Nufrio

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Mr. James Damato, Mr. Gregory Tatum, Mr. Manuel Vieira, Mr. Gerry Benaquista

Mr. Arminio called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Mr. Salcedo 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 Board Secretary.

BUDGET PRESENTATION:

Mr. Arminio stated to Mr. Vieira that he has the floor.

Mr. Vieira stated good evening everyone – I would like to present our budget for fiscal year 2015-2016. I am pleased to present our budget for Fiscal Year 15-16. There is good news to share with you as we prepare for the 2015-2016 school year. Although our school district did not receive any additional state aid, we maintained all programs. A 2.1% local tax rate increase and healthy fund balances allow us to move forward with a balanced budget. Two of our largest challenges are controlling the cost increases in employee health benefits and Special Services. Our 2015-2016 Total Budgetary Comparative per Pupil Cost is \$14,465. We have approximately 1200 employees and 7500 students.

Our total budget is \$130.5 million that consists of:

General Fund:	\$124.8 mill
Special Rev Fd (fed, state grants, NCLB, IDEA):	2.8 mill
Debt Service Fund:	2.9 mill

For a total of \$130.5 million.

We received \$31.9 in State aid which is approximately 1/4 of our budget and our total local tax levy is \$87.1 million which is 2/3 of our budget

Appropriations/expenditures - More than \$63 million dollars is appropriated for instruction. Next is the employee benefits \$23.8 million dollars. I will go back to the General and School Administration/Central Services/Tech which is \$8.7 million. Our debt service is \$2.9 million. Operation and maintenance is \$10.5 million. Student Support Services is \$13.5 million and transportation is \$5.8 million. For a total of \$130.5 million.

What probably most people are interested in is the tax impact on the average homeowner in Union. General Fund tax increase is \$85.86. There is a decrease in our debt service because we refinanced \$5 million in bonds which lowered our debt service (-\$2.76) which is passed on to the tax papers. So the average increase to the homeowners in Union is \$83.10. Tomorrow I will post a user friendly budget on our district website – there will be more details there.

Next is the presentation that has to do with some of the highlights of our programs. Like I said a lot of our programs will be maintained – pre-k kindergarten, full-day kindergarten, all the academic programs pre-k through grade 12. Also maintaining our comprehensive program of athletics and co-curricular activities throughout the school district.

Some of educational advances:

- Guidance – integration of technology into elementary and middle school classroom lessons;
- Performing Arts/Music – increase size of the high school marching band for the 2015-2016 school year and competitive season;
- Social Studies – implementation of writing initiative based on the PARCC writing format using the NJCCS writing rubric;
- Science – implementation of the next generation science standards and high school STEM – new course digital electronics
- Phys Ed – CPR for all district 11th graders
- Career Education – CAD IV – 3D modeling and rendering
- Elementary level – pre-k rediness and writing kits, I Ready – which masters reading and mathematics program, science fusion for grade 2 and go math upgrade

For the next school year the physical plant highlights include bathrooms districtwide, sidewalks districtwide and new classrooms at the Burnet Middle School.

In concluding our Board of Education, staff and students, thank you, the residential and commercial taxpayers of Union for your continued financial support of the Union Public Schools.

FISCAL AND PLANNING COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS:

Mr. Arminio stated thank you Mr. Vieira. Mr. Salcedo will you please move items F-1 through F-7. Mr. Salcedo stated the Committee recommends and I so move that the 2015-2016 school budget be adopted in accordance with the copy in the hands of each board member, and the following:

F-1. The committee recommends and I so move that there should be raised for General Funds \$84,295,227 for the 2015-2016 school year (includes \$1,000,000 for increased health benefits).

F-2 The committee recommends and I so move that the board include in its proposed 2015-2016 budget an additional amount of \$1,000,000 for increases in health benefits in accordance with the information in the hands of each board member.

F-3. The committee recommends and I so move that the board approve withdrawal from Capital Reserve to Capital Outlay (Fund 12) in the amount of \$1,155,000 for the following projects (a) Asbestos Removal – Districtwide - \$55,000; (b) Bathrooms- Burnet Middle School - \$33,000; (c) Bathrooms – Union High School - \$165,000; (d) Bathrooms – Washington School - \$33,000; (e) New Classrooms – Burnet Middle School - \$825,000; (f) Sidewalks – Districtwide - \$44,000 in accordance with the information in the hands of each board member.

F-4. The committee recommends and I so move that the board approve withdrawal from Maintenance Reserve in the amount of \$600,000 for required maintenance in accordance with the information in the hands of each board member.

F-5. The committee recommends and I so move that the board approve Travel Expenditure Maximum in the amount of \$80,000 in accordance with the information in the hands of each board member.

F-6. The committee recommends and I so move that the board establish a maximum dollar limit for professional services and public relations in the amount of \$875,000 in accordance with the information in the hands of each board member.

F-7. The committee recommends and I so move that the board authorize the Superintendent and the Business Administrator to implement the 2015-2016 school budget and tax levy pursuant to local and state policies.

Mr. Arminio asked if there were any questions, comments – none.

AYE: Dr. Francis, Mr. Galante, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Salcedo, Mrs. Zuena, Mr. Arminio

NAY: none

ABSTAIN: none

MOTION WAS CARRIED

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Mr. Arminio asked if there were any comments from the public. No comments from the public. We will have a recess for a while then we are coming back into public session so that we can go into Executive Session. We do have a comment.

Rosa Figuerido asked, is it o.k. if I ask if we are getting new marching band uniforms for this coming year. Mr. Vieira answered yes. Ms. Figuerido stated it didn't mention the uniforms. Mr. Vieira stated yes. We recently went out to bid for the marching band uniforms for the current school year. The bid will be awarded at the May board meeting so that the uniforms will be purchased. Ms. Figuerido stated so this coming season we will have new uniforms. Mr. Vieira stated yes. Ms. Figuerido stated O.K. thank you so much.

Mr. Arminio asked if we need a motion to go into Recess. Mr. Damato stated yes. Mr. Arminio stated can we have a motion to go into Recess please so that we can have a chat with our PTA Presidents

Moved by Mr. McDowell, seconded by Mr. Salcedo to go into Recess.

Mr. Arminio stated we have a motion to go into Recess and a second.

AYE: Dr. Francis, Mr. Galante, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Salcedo, Mrs. Zuena, Mr. Arminio

NAY: none

ABSTAIN: none

MOTION WAS CARRIED

MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Moved by Mrs. Zuena, seconded by Mr. Salcedo that the board go into Executive Session to discuss the following subject matters without the presence of the public in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 10:4-2(b) student and personnel matters. 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 interest 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: Dr. Francis, Mr. Galante, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Salcedo, Mrs. Zuena, Mr. Arminio

NAY: none

ABSTAIN: none

MOTION WAS CARRIED

MOTION TO RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION:

There being no further business before the board it was moved by Mrs. Zuena, seconded by Mr. Salcedo that the board return to public session.

AYE: Dr. Francis, Mr. Galante, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Salcedo, Mrs. Zuena, Mr. Arminio

NAY: none

ABSTAIN: none

MOTION WAS CARRIED

PERSONNEL:

Mr. Damato stated you need to read the resolution. Mr. McDowell stated the committee recommends and I so move that Employee #11442 be suspended without pay effective April 30, 2015. Mrs. Zuena seconded. In accordance with the information appended to the Non-Public portion of these minutes.

Mr. Arminio stated is there any discussions, questions, comments. None.

AYE: Dr. Francis, Mr. Galante, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Salcedo, Mrs. Zuena, Mr. Arminio

NAY: none

ABSTAIN: none

MOTION WAS CARRIED

MOTION TO ADJOURN

There being no further business before the board, it was moved by Mr. McDowell, seconded by Dr. Francis that the meeting be adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

AYE: Dr. Francis, Mr. Galante, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Salcedo, Mrs. Zuena, Mr. Arminio

NAY: none

ABSTAIN: none

MOTION WAS CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

**JAMES J. DAMATO
BOARD SECRETARY**