

NOTICE OF MEETING:

TO ALL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS:

A special meeting of the Board of Education of the Township of Union will be held on Tuesday, August 11, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at James Caulfield Administration Building, 2369 Morris Avenue, Union, New Jersey pursuant to notice sent to each member.

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:

Mr. David Arminio, Dr. Guy Francis, Ms. Lois Jackson, Mr. Thomas Layden, Mr. Ronnie McDowell, Mr. Vito Nufrio, Mr. Angel Salcedo, Mrs. Nancy Zuena

ABSENT AT ROLL CALL:

None

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Mr. James Damato, Dr. Noreen Lishak, Mr. Gregory Tatum, Mr. Gerry Benaquista, Mrs. Fernanda Manochio

Mr. Arminio 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 Board Secretary.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Mrs. Lipstein stated she has two questions. The media specialist librarian who was hired – is this in addition to the one we already have? Mr. Tatum stated we had reduced our staff and librarians a couple of years ago during budget cuts and we found that schedule wise, it was just not feasible, so this is an additional position. We are back at the level that we were prior to doing that. Mrs. Lipstein stated I would like to thank you for doing that because I know it has been very difficult in the way that it was and as one that was in the profession, I know how important it is.

RECOMMENDATION OF AD HOC COMMITTEE TO APPOINT A BOARD MEMBER TO FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF RICHARD GALANTE:

Mr. Arminio stated I wanted to publicly thank the Ad Hoc Committee for the work that they did for preparing the questions to interview the candidates and turn it over to the chairperson of the Committee, Tom Layden.

Mr. Layden stated Mr. President, if I may, I would like to read a prepared statement before the Board of Education. Mr. Layden read a prepared statement which is below and appended to these minutes.

“With all due respect, I would like to comment on this recommendation before us from our Ad Hoc Committee.

As a member and Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Committee, I had the opportunity to interview Mr. Monge. While the question was not directly asked to the candidates, I believe that all members of the committee felt the candidates who applied for the vacant position would in fact be running for the one year unexpired term of Mr. Galante. As we have learned, Mr. Monge has filed for the full three-year term.

With all three incumbents on the dais here running for re-election, this vote for Mr. Monge would in essence be seen as an endorsement from the Board, who first and foremost should be viewed by the public as non-political in its actions. Clearly this vote would be viewed as political to even the most unbiased observer. With Mr. Monge’s filing for a full three-year term, this nomination has the appearance of a political agenda, unintentional or not.

For that reason Mr. President, I believe that it would be a prudent move to exercise your authority as President of this Board to remove this recommendation from tonight’s meeting agenda.

Mr. President, I respectfully make a motion that the nomination of Mr. Monge be tabled at this time with the matter referred back to the full Board for resolution.”

Transcriber disc malfunction - the following is from notes of meeting.

Mr. Layden made a motion that the nomination of Mr. Monge be tabled at this time with the matter referred back to the full Board for resolution. The motion was seconded by: Mrs. Jackson.

Dr. Francis stated he didn’t understand and why wasn’t this brought up at the committee meeting. Mrs. Zuena stated as a committee, this should have been discussed in committee. Mr. Salcedo stated he would have liked more information since he was not able to attend the interview. Mr. McDowell stated that the same thing happened last year and he didn’t understand what the problem is. Mr. Layden stated that this was his personal feelings and if the Board agrees or disagrees with it, it is up to the Board. Mr. Arminio stated that the Ad Hoc Committee endorsed the recommendation of Mr. Monge and the Board went forward with that agenda because it was approved by all three of you. Mr. Layden stated that there had been a change in circumstances since the Ad Hoc Committee meeting and he believed and thought that many would agree that if during an interview for a one year unexpired term, you would run for a one year term. Mrs. Zuena stated he wasn’t being interviewed for a one year term, he was interviewed to finish out this term – now until December and he was not interviewed for next year. He is finishing out a term; he is not running for a one year term.

Mr. Damato stated that a motion was made and same was seconded. Now the vote to table or not to table the motion needs to be taken, and depending on the vote, will determine if the motion be tabled. Assuming there is a resolution on the agenda, it will be moved for another vote. Mr. Arminio asked if we approve to table, it is tabled until when? Mr. Damato stated it is tabled until a motion to move the resolution from the table which is in accordance with Robert's Rules - that is the correct proceeding, someone at this meeting or another meeting must make a motion to remove the resolution from the table and bring it to a vote.

Mr. Nufrio stated he understood that the Ad Hoc Committee was Dr. Francis, Mrs. Zuena and Mr. Layden and that the Ad Hoc Committee unanimously approved Mr. Monge as replacement for the vacancy and it was never stipulated that he should only run for that vacancy; it is the option of any candidate to run for whatever position – if it is one year term or three-year term. There were two individuals that wanted the one year term and one dropped out – so congratulations to Mr. Lee because you will probably win that position. A lot of irregularities exist with elections. The Ad Hoc Committee presented to the Board President and the President reported to the Board members that it a unanimous decision to approve Mr. Monge and it was without any provisions or caveats. He thought it was an injustice to the other two members to simply rely on Mr. Layden's explanation or analysis of what had occurred since that appointment; that appointment or that decision was decided without conditions and was made after interviews were conducted – open interviews that Mr. Arminio had set a few rounds in terms of how we do this in the future. He thought it is irregular for one member to change a decision that was made by three – that is his opinion.

Mr. Arminio stated first, when you say it is political in nature, that is an opinion and you are entitled to your opinion. It never entered my mind. His running for a three-term seat rather than a one year term seat – that never entered my mind that it would be political. You saw this as political because he is running for a three-year term – I never saw that at all. That is your opinion and I respect your opinion. Second, I did not know you would do this; I never saw this coming; but even after I heard it because I wanted to be open and honest, I allowed you to continue with it – I could have said no I will not open that up to be seconded. I still did it even as I was blindsided, to be blunt, by that statement and allowed Ms. Jackson to second it. Your seconding it opened it up to discussion because I want to be as open and transparent as possibly can be to run these meetings and if there are no other comments, I am going to call for a vote and after the vote we will see what happens. Ms. Jackson asked the vote is? Mr. Arminio stated the vote is according to his resolution to make a point of what the resolution is, correct me if I'm wrong Mr. Layden, you are asking the Board or me to table the resolution appointment Jeffrey Monge to the one-year term to table it for a future time and I don't know what tabling would do between now and our next meeting which is the 18<sup>th</sup> – you are asking the Board to vote to table our vote on whether he should be appointed to finish out the term of Mr. Galante which is four-month term.

Mr. Damato stated just a minor correction. There is one year left on Mr. Galante's term and that is what the election is for in November. Mr. Arminio asked this term is only until the election? Mr. Damato stated December 31<sup>st</sup>. It expires on the reorganization meeting when the Board members take office. Mr. McDowell stated that Mr. Galante would not have been running this November.

Mr. Nufrio stated I guess right now we are going to vote on the tabling but it seems the Ad Hoc Committee process is being violated and the rights of the other two Board members are being set aside like nothing happened. There was time spent, hours preparing for that interview. I came here and I left the room with Mr. Arminio, even though I came as a member of the community, interested in hearing the candidates' responses to very lengthy and good questions. I would like to know how Dr. Francis and Mrs. Zuena feel about all that they did has become moot with one simple recommendation. I guess your vote doesn't count.

Dr. Francis stated we should next time, Mr. President, that we do it as a full Board, notice it as a meeting. Mr. Arminio asked the interviews? We learn from this. Dr. Francis stated so we can all see and vote on this. Mr. Nufrio stated that would mean an actual meeting.

Mr. McDowell asked this is not an actual resolution – just a comment from the public or the Board – can we vote on it – opening up discussion? Mr. Arminio stated a resolution is on the floor that was seconded. Mr. Damato stated a motion. Mr. Nufrio stated a resolution is prepared by the Superintendent or a committee. Mr. McDowell asked a motion carries the same weight of a resolution? Mr. Damato stated correct.

Mr. Arminio called for a vote.

AYE: Ms. Jackson, Mr. Layden  
NAY: Dr. Francis, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Nufrio, Mrs. Zuena, Mr. Arminio  
ABSTAIN: Mr. Salcedo MOTION WAS CARRIED

Mr. Damato stated that there are five votes not to table – the resolution remains on the agenda and can be moved and seconded and then we can proceed.

Mr. Arminio asked Mr. Layden, as Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Committee, to read No. 1 on the agenda

Moved by Mr. Layden, seconded by Mr. Nufrio that the following motion be approved:

The ad hoc committee recommends and I so move that Mr. Monge be appointed as a Board member to fill the unexpired term of Richard Galante. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nufrio.

AYE: Dr. Francis, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Nufrio, Mrs. Zuena, Mr. Arminio  
NAY: None  
ABSTAIN: Ms. Jackson, Mr. Layden, Mr. Salcedo MOTION WAS CARRIED

Mr. Damato stated five votes so the motion is carried. Mr. Arminio asked to Mr. Monge to come up and be sworn in

Administer Oath of Office – Mr. Monge was sworn in by Mr. Damato, copy of executed OATH appended to these minutes.

COMMUNICATIONS:

LETTER REQUEST – CLUB METRO

Request from Club Metro to borrow 10x 8’ tables and chairs for an event to be held on August 20, 2015.

It was discussed that a simple agreement with hold harmless and insurance provisions be prepared by Mr. Damato and a Certificate of Insurance naming the Board of Education as an additional insured would be requested from Club Metro. Also a specific time of pick-up and return of tables of chairs would be set.

OPERATIONS:

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

O-1. APPROVE REQUEST BY CLUB METRO USA

That the Board approve the request by Club Metro USA, in accordance with the information appended to these minutes. Contingent upon signing of a contract and proof of insurance to be provided prior to the event and to be approved by Board Attorney.

Mr. Salcedo asked if this would set a precedent. Mr. Wiggins stated that we have done this before. Mr. Arminio stated they are our neighbors. Mrs. Zuena stated that the students do get member discounts from Club Metro.

AYE: Dr. Francis, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Layden, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Monge, Mr. Nufrio, Mr. Salcedo, Mrs. Zuena, Mr. Arminio

NAYE: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION WAS CARRIED

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS

Moved by Mr. Nufrio, seconded by Ms. Jackson and Mrs. Zuena that the following resolutions be adopted:

P-1. APPROVE PERSONNEL ACTIONS

That Personnel Actions be approved, in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

P-2. APPROVE RESOLUTION PROVIDING SALARY AND FRINGE BENEFITS FOR CENTRAL OFFICE STAFF

That the Board approve the resolution providing salary and fringe benefits for all staff in the Central Office, for the period from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.

- P-3. APPROVE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT – DR. MULLICK  
That the Board approve professional service contract with Bharati Mullick, M.D., as Chief Medical Inspector pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-1 for the 2015-2016 school year at an annual fee of \$20,000, in accordance with the information appended to these minutes.
- P-4. APPROVE MEDICAL INSPECTOR – DR. EISENSTAT  
That the Board approve Dr. Steven Eisenstat, 1050 Galloping Hill Road, Union, New Jersey, as Medical Inspector for the 2015-2016 school year at an annual rate of \$1,300.
- P-5. APPROVE TEAM PHYSICIAN – DR. GALLICK  
That the Board approve Dr. Gregory Gallick, 2780 Morris Avenue, Union, New Jersey, as Team Physician for the 2015-2016 school year at an annual rate of \$3,500.
- P-6. APPROVE VICE PRINCIPAL, WASHINGTON SCHOOL – MALYSKA  
That the Board approve Mary Malyska as Vice Principal of Washington Elementary School, Step 4, at a contractual salary of \$115,895, effective September 1, 2015.
- P-7. APPROVE PRINCIPAL, WASHINGTON SCHOOL – MATTHEWS  
That the Board approve Thomas Matthews as Principal of Washington Elementary School, Step 3, at a contractual salary of \$123,100, effective September 1, 2015.
- P-8. APPROVE VICE PRINCIPAL, UNION HIGH SCHOOL – OSTY  
That the Board approve Kimberly Osty as Vice Principal of Union High School, Step 2, at a contractual salary of \$111,895, effective September 1, 2015.
- P-9. APPROVE VICE PRINCIPAL, UNION HIGH SCHOOL – RUTTY  
That the Board approve Terrell Ratty as Vice Principal of Union High School, Step 2, at a contractual salary of \$111,895, effective September 1, 2015.

Mr. Monge asked with respect to P-3, what is the process in the bid process and why did that go out to bid? Mr. Damato stated that we have been using Dr. Mullick for many years. Professional Services Contracts do not go out to bid but rather, get posted on our website and are awarded a contract pursuant to the Fair and Open Public Proposal process.

AYE: Dr. Francis, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Layden, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Nufrio,  
Mr. Salcedo, Mrs. Zuena, Mr. Arminio

NAYE: None

ABSTAIN: Mr. Monge

MOTION WAS CARRIED

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

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

AYE: Dr. Francis, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Layden, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Monge, Mr. Nufrio,  
Mr. Salcedo, Mrs. Zuenas, Mr. Arminio

NAYE: None

ABSTAIN: None

**MOTION WAS CARRIED**

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

Mr. Monge thanked the Board for choosing him as the fill-in Board member.

Mr. Arminio reminded everyone that our regular meeting is scheduled for August 18, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. and our planning session is scheduled for August 20, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. and the public is invited; however, they will not be able to comment. He asked that items for the planning session be sent to him so that an agenda can be prepared.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:**

There being no further business before the Board, it was moved by Mr. Nufrio, seconded by Mr. McDowell that the meeting be adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

AYE: Dr. Francis, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Layden, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Monge, Mr. Nufrio,  
Mr. Salcedo, Mrs. Zuenas, Mr. Arminio

NAYE: None

ABSTAIN: None

**MOTION WAS CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted,

**JAMES J. DAMATO  
BOARD SECRETARY**