

Union Board of Education

Union, CT 06076

Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at 6:30 pm

Union School Library (also via Zoom)

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm by Andrea Estell.

Attending: A. Estell, A. Blank, R. Fischetti, E. Fournier, J. Garden, J. Kavanaugh
Sup./Prin. S. Jackopsic, M. Powers, Rec. Secretary
Others Attending: L. Demurjian, E. Pitruzzello

Approval of Minutes

E. Fournier made a motion to approve the minutes from January 12, 2022 and January 26, 2022. Seconded by J. Kavanaugh. Unanimously approved.

Individuals to be heard-none.

Communications: A. Estell said we received a communication from the Board of Finance about the proposed 2022-23 BOE spending plan and would give details later in the meeting under the Financial Report.

Administrative Reports and Activities Summary

a. Superintendent and Principal's report-Sup./Prin. Jackopsic informed those present that the school has received a mental health/vaping grant in the amount of ~\$4,000.00. The eighth grade continues the registration process for high school. SEL has wrapped up the topic of gratitude and is moving on to the topic of forgiveness. June 17 is projected to be the last day of school based on the snow days we have incurred so far. Staff is working on their individual websites. On Jan. 31, staff attended a professional learning session. The focus was ELA and tailored to teacher needs. On Feb. 10 David Howes will conduct the next professional learning session focused on SEL. NAEP testing has been completed for grade 4. Smarter Balanced testing will be conducted in the spring for grades 3-8. Sup./Prin. Jackopsic continues informal teacher observations. We hope to resume after school clubs in the near future.

b. Staff report-P.E. teacher Erin Pitruzzello introduced herself to Board members. She was pleased to report one of the activities she is teaching to students is snowshoeing. The snowshoes were acquired through the American Heart Association grant. She also reported the students are being introduced to some of the sports in the Winter Olympics. Additionally, she also gave a detailed update on the SEL project she is collaborating on with V. LaMonica (Music teacher). The focus is Learning Leadership, which includes cooperative activities, for the remainder of the school year.

Committee Reports

a. Curriculum-none.

b. Communication-none.

c. Transportation-none.

d. Personnel-none.

e. Building-Minor repairs were recently completed on one of the front doors as well as the library door. We are anticipating the part to repair the other front door to arrive soon.

f. EASTCONN-none.

Financial Report

a. Review of bills- The bills were reviewed and in order.

b. 2021-2022 Board of Ed Budget-Sup./Prin. Jackopsic said we still are projecting a surplus, with a small increase due to a move out of district at the high school level.

c. 2022-2023 Board of Ed Spending Plan- A. Estell informed the members that the spending plan was presented to the Board of Finance. The BOF requested the BOE cut an additional ~\$17,000.00 from the budget. Sup./Prin. Jackopsic indicated that could be reduced from the high school tuition with no impact on PreK-8.

Old Business

a. Homeschooling/School-The family that made the inquiry has decided to enroll their children at the school rather than homeschool.

New Business

a. Tuition reimbursement-Sup./Prin. Jackopsic asked the Board to reimburse V. LaMonica 100% to become certified through the ARC program, which has a cost of \$5,500.

A. Blank made a motion to reimburse V. LaMonica 100% at a cost of \$5,500 to accelerate certification through the ARC program. E. Fournier seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried.

b. Weather-related make-up days-Sup./Prin Jackopsic said we have incurred five cancellations. He asked the Board to use the April 1 professional development day as a half day prof. development and a half day for students to be in attendance.

J. Kavanaugh made a motion to use the April 1 Professional Development day a half day of professional development for teachers and a half school day for students. J. Garden seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried.

c. COVID-19 Policy and procedures updates-Sup./Prin. Jackopsic said decisions should focus on the safety of our learning community and looks forward to the next DPH meeting on Feb. 15 for guidance. He is optimistic about the trend in reduced COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations. He would like to extend the school mandate until the end of February in the event The Legislature does not extend the executive order, stating that decisions should be grounded in facts and data. School nurse L. Demurjian recommended looking at the data in the next two weeks for the next meeting.

d. Budget transfers-Sup./Prin. Jackopsic requested a transfer of \$5000.00 from Certified Staff to Repair/Maint., and a transfer of \$2500 from Certified Staff to Health Supplies.

A. Blank made a motion to transfer \$5000.00 from Certified Staff to Repair/Maint. and \$2500.00 from Certified Staff to Health Supplies. J. Kavanaugh seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried.

e. Superintendent mid-year review (possible executive session) J. Garden made a motion to go into executive session at 7:45 pm inviting S. Jackopsic to discuss the superintendent mid-year review. A. Blank seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The Board exited executive session at 8:30 pm.

Individuals to be heard-none.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:31 pm made by E. Fournier. J. Kavanagh seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Michele Powers, Recording Secretary.