

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
UTICA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING – TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2022 – 7:00 P.M.
Administration Building – 929 York Street – Kernan School**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Joseph H. Hobika, Presiding; Robert Cardillo, Donald Dawes, Tennille Knoop, Danielle Padula, James Paul, Dave Testa

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Bruce Karam, Steve Falchi, Trina Falchi, Don Gerace, Esq., Kathy Hughes, Michele LaGase, Teresa Mathews, Zach Nicotera, Vincent Perrotta, Vanessa Rejrat, Paris Rich

Public Comment to the Board of Education

President Hobika, Jr. called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Board Clerk Kathy Hughes conducted roll call. All members of the Board of Education were present.

Message from the President

One of the things that we've been doing is trying to get more students to attend and participate. I believe we have 2 teams here and a club. I think the biggest thing and there's a bus waiting outside, and the largest number is the football team. Perhaps we can have them come through and maybe somebody on the team can tell us a little something and let us know how the fields are. The cheerleaders are also here.

The following teams were acknowledged. Each team had a member speak:

Football Team – Todd Abraham
Cheerleaders – Anijah Buckingham/Jacqueline Fischer/Cierra Duval
Girls Tennis – Ebenezer Sha/Tennis Coach – Mike Zaloom

Discussions

Capital Project Update – Jeffrey Kloetzer, Stieglitz Snyder Architecture (SSA)

Mr. Kloetzer presented his update on the Capital Project for September 2022.

Questions from the Board Members:

None

Presentations

Sports – Vincent Perrotta – Director of Athletics and Physical Education

Mr. Perrotta presented an update on the fall athletics.

Questions from the Board Members:

President Hobika, Jr.: What's going on with HUDDLE?

Mr. Perrotta: HUDDLE is our program up at the stadium that we film our football games and soccer games. We can automatically stream that to YouTube.

President Hobika, Jr.: Are we doing that?

Mr. Perrotta: Yes, we are. With the click of a button the coach has access to do that and it goes right to our live stream. It takes the cameraman out of the picture. It just automatically records and follows the ball.

Mrs. Padula: For Raider Day, is there like a Spirit Day on top of it or is it only for....

Mr. Perrotta: It's not a Spirit Day at the high school, but I am asking the elementary principals to have their children ready in some raider clothing if they have it, or our colors. The teams that teams that are going in there, the 4-5 athletes will be wearing their uniform or Raider gear.

Mrs. Padula: When is homecoming?

Mr. Perrotta: Home coming we had it on the 24th, it was moved to I think the 17th of October. I have to look at it, but we did move it. We're playing Henninger that day.

Mrs. Padula: And the day of the PEP Rally?

Mr. Perrotta: The PEP Rally is usually done that Friday before.

Mrs. Padula: In the past, and Tennille and I have been going around to all of the schools since the opening. Besides the snack bar being opened, one of the other things that we heard, I guess you used to stream the PEP Rallies into the elementary schools, and they could to watch it. If we could honor that request or if you can look into that.

Mr. Perrotta: Yes, we can look into that.

Mrs. Padula: That seemed like it's something that the kids would watch it in their classroom.

Mr. Perrotta: It's streamed already, so it probably could be done very easily, but I will check into that for you.

Mrs. Padula: Ok, thank you, perfect.

Mrs. Tennille: Cross Country – Wasn't there a young lady something at E.J. Hermann this weekend?

Mr. Perrotta: I know that our girls team won the E.J. Hermann, they came in first; the Modified Team – yes, they did. I've got a banner. Congratulations to them.

Mrs. Padula: We're talking about student commentating. So, Channel 3 and the Communications Committee were looking for ways through the clubs to have students more involved at the games; have a responsibility. That was something that Dave, Tennille, and I were looking into and was going to talk to you about if we can at least get them to do one home game.

Mr. Perrotta: That would be great.

President Hobika, Jr.: Thank you very much.

Update on Opening of Schools – Steven Falchi, Administrative Director of Curriculum & Instruction K-12

Mr. Falchi presented an update on the opening of school.

Questions from the Board Members:

None

Durham Bus Company – Transportation Update, Brett Wester, Region Manager for Durham School Services and Zachary Nicotera, Transportation Supervisor

President Hobika, Jr.: Before you get started, I want to thank Mr. Nicotera for providing a bus for the football team to get them here so that they can be recognized. It was one of our drivers, correct?

Mr. Nicotera: Yes.

President Hobika, Jr.: Thank you very much.

Mr. Nicotera: You're welcome. It's definitely nice to be standing here under better circumstances.

Mr. Nicotera presented the update on staffing numbers.

Mr. Wester presented an update for Durham Bus Company and their staffing numbers.

Questions from the Board Members:

President Hobika, Jr.: How many people do you have training in your office and call center? My understanding is that that's been a problem that the phones are not being answered even when we call. What's happening there?

Mr. Wester: I will find out. We have 2 brand new dispatchers that we've replaced a couple of folks that were in there. I'll check on what problems we may be having, and I can give you feedback after I've talked to my team.

President Hobika, Jr.: I would prefer that you just cover it because when parents are calling; I mean we had this discussion last year as well. Your company indicated and I can't remember who it was, that you guys had this tree and there was going to be plenty of people and no call was going to go unanswered. Now we are in a situation where that is sort of happening. Obviously, it is a very difficult thing when you're a parent and either you have somewhere to be and you're out there making sure your child gets on the bus, or you're wondering where the child is or what's happening. We need to make sure we answer the phone, that's a big deal.

Mr. Wester: Ok. We reset our phone tree just before the restart of school with the new employees. I will double check the tree and make sure that there are no problems.

Mrs. Padula: I just want to comment on that. Even from a parent standpoint, a lot of times we'll contact the school and the secretaries or someone who answers the phones are very transparent (like we are) trying to get in touch with Durham and we're wondering if the bus is going to be late. Like the DOJO communication has been wonderful if it is late. But it always seems if you call down to our Bus Garage and you happen to get Zach or somebody in the office, I don't know if he has like a secret number but they're able to get in touch with you. That's the only thing. I know if my child is on a Durham run and I'm trying to contact you. It has been a little frustrating, but overall it's wonderful. I can't speak for all the schools, but like I said when Tennille and I went around and to see busing was not being a major concern was awesome to hear. Kudos overall.

Mr. Wester: I appreciate that and again I will look into the tree.

Mr. Testa: I stopped down the Bus Garage and spoke to Zach today and I had a few questions, and then I talked to a few bus drivers. My concern is the wintertime and you felt comfortable with how we are going with the staffing. One area that you did mention is answering phone calls and somebody to basically input the log-in stuff and help with that part of it. This guy is tremendous. I see him all over the place and working hard and I wanted to give you a hats off. Same thing with Durham for a good start this year. My concern is the wintertime, and we know the NiMo is going up and the kids are going to be freezing. A lot of people won't be able to afford the heat. My concern is to make sure we're there for the kids. I want us as a Board to be able to help them so that we can have communication and the parents are able to call down. If they need help, we've got to help them in this area. Thank you, Zach.

Mr. Paul: Mr. Wester, I just had a question in regard to the video.

Mr. Wester: If you don't mind on the last comment if I can just add to the end of it. One of the things is our bus tracker that's going to help to be able to see where the buses are. There are one or two more data points that need to be completed. We have our end set up and we're just looking at getting those last points put together. Once those are together, I've already talked to Zach we're going to send out all the log-in information to all the parents to get that up and running. That's number one that's going to help with the wintertime. We want to get that active in the next week or two. The other part of it is that as we bring on more drivers – when I was talking about freeing up some of those buses; that's going to be the important part as during the winter, we are able to make sure those buses have enough room, so we're not packed, we're not taking too long on the road. That way we can get to the kids quicker, and also with the bus tracker they can see exactly where the bus is. Sorry if I interrupted.

Mr. Paul: I have a question for you Mr. Wester, but first of all I'd like to say again, like everyone said here. Great job with what you guys and Mr. Nicotera has done with busing this year. I haven't heard any complaints. My question is when it comes to the video cameras on the buses, are all of our buses now in a place where they all have video?

Mr. Wester: All of the Utica City School District buses have the cameras on them. We have gone through with the vendors to have all of the tools that we need to pull the videos. Our people have had the training to understand how to pull them. We did have to bring in a few Durham school buses from the Albany area to help out with a few buses that are not up and running right now. A couple of them did not have the same camera systems in it, so we're working on getting those cleared out of here and get the other ones in to make sure we don't have those problems in the future.

Mr. Paul: And that's going to be on all routes?

Mr. Wester: Yes.

Mr. Paul: Great, thank you.

Michele LaGase, Director of Human Resources, Human Resources Update

Mrs. LaGase presented an update on Human Resources.

Questions from the Board Members:

Mrs. Knoop: So you have 10 TA's, of these TA's that are going to be coming through, you have to wait until the next Board Meeting in order for them to officially begin?

Mrs. LaGase: It is recommended but because I had a conversation with the Superintendent because of the needs of the students, I do not want to wait 4 more weeks for these individuals to get into classrooms. He has authorized retroactive hiring. They are going to be in the classroom, but they're not going to be in your Report until October.

President Hobika, Jr.: We're going to be having a Special Meeting on October 6th at 5:00, so you'll be able to rather than do the retroactive right?

Mrs. LaGase: As long as I have all their – one of the greatest things obviously is fingerprint clearance. I can't allow an employee in without having that. If I have all of the things that are necessary, we will definitely get them in. But we do not want to wait until October to have TA's put into those classrooms.

Mrs. Knoop: Mrs. Padula and I toured the schools and that was, and I mean obviously there's a lot, but one of the biggest needs that we saw, and we heard from all of the teachers were the TA's; especially in Special Education and kindergarten. We know that that's a big thing. We have to make sure and if it's something where they have to wait for Board approval, I want to make sure that we're not losing employees. If we need Board approval if we can have some type of Special Meeting or something going forward so we are not just waiting in the wings.

Mrs. LaGase: Absolutely.

President Hobika, Jr.: Everyone is committed to October 6th.

Mrs. Knoop: I had a question about the Clerk position, about the non-instructional position. You answered that so thank you. Then I wanted to check on the development of the exit process policy that you guys are working on.

Mrs. LaGase: We are still in the process of doing that. I actually want to have a meeting with Mr. Ferraro. We had just a preliminary discussion because of the nature of some of the things fall under his (in terms of) inventory and keys and those things. I think it is important that he has input. I also have met with Mr. Lalonde on just some of the legal pieces that we know have to be required in that policy.

Mrs. Knoop: Thank you.

President Hobika, Jr.: I just wanted to comment on that. You'll also be able to once the RFQ gets implemented for the department, that will also be an opportunity to be provided with some resources on that subject.

Mrs. Padula: When you said Hughes had no openings, that was teacher?

Mrs. LaGase: Teachers – UTA members, not teacher assistants. I have a breakdown of each building.

Mrs. Padula: I know that a lot of like parent liaisons have been covering classrooms for Special Education. I just wanted to make sure.

Mr. Testa: First of all, it's probably been a hectic year for you and for our principals and our teachers stepping up and doing extra work. I appreciate everybody doing what they do. One concern I hear is like job postings. Sometimes they put job postings generic. Eventually as we get settled down, hopefully we will start having the schools down that they're bidding. And hiring – are we advertising outside the district? Like the TA's its inside and they're moving people around. Special Education – I think we need to look out more pay out for TA's especially Special Education/Special Needs and helping the teachers there. A lot of these jobs, people are doing the job. We want people in there that want to be in there working with the kids that have special needs. That's my concern on that.

Mrs. LaGase: We are advertising across all platforms

Mr. Testa: Ok, great. Thank you.

Mr. Paul: I have a question Mrs. LaGase and unfortunately Mr. Simpson is not here this evening. You said you're looking to hire more Social Workers.

Mrs. LaGase: Yes.

Mr. Paul: And that's per what he deems necessary?

Mrs. LaGase: It was per the budget, what was in the budget yes.

Mr. Paul: Ok. Of those Social Workers, have we taken in account that a lot of them aren't doing social work? When I ask that question what I'm hearing is that the Social Workers are doing things that are keeping them from the social work duties. We may have them in body, but we don't have them in experience or the work format. I think we definitely need to look at that and get a better handle on that if we can. I don't think our Social Workers are equipped to do CSE, to check CSE Meetings and I know that they're doing those. That's kind of a disservice to the students that actually need the social work piece. We need to look at who we need to put in place to make the CSE Chairs or those meetings actually handled properly. Like I said, I apologize, Mr. Simpson isn't here for me to broach those questions to. Thank you.

Mrs. Knoop: I know that we discussed this before regarding when people are sending in applications and everything. There's no email, there's no way for them to send it in just to mail in. Is there a way to make that accessible?

Mrs. LaGase: I'm looking at that. I've looked at some of the other districts that have an electronic platform where they actually apply online. That's something that I'm looking into as well as the possibility of having it come in outside of a physical copy or a fax. We're looking to expand that just to make that process streamlined. I'm also looking at, again Mr. Ferraro's department has been very helpful with me updating certain things on our website, but I also think that there are some IT needs in the department that I'm going to recommend to I think enhance service provision.

Mrs. Knoop: Thank you.

Mrs. Padula: I have one more question. We talk a lot about teachers and TA's and stuff like that. Can you maybe do an analysis for us internally with support staff in administrative departments. Like how many people you have in your department, Mr. Falchi and things like that and along with lunch monitors and some of those additional support staff. I know you're filling a lot of positions and you just gave us a brief overview. I think it would be important once we fill all these, like the UTA positions and stuff like that, that we look into the lunch monitors and stuff like that as well, because I know those are super helpful and very important in the schools.

Mrs. LaGase: Absolutely. The other thing I just wanted to highlight is that Utica University had sent out a correspondence that they were organizing a Substitute Teacher Fair. Of course, we did have a table at that fair and it was successful. Dr. Miner had offered to assist me, she does some work at the college. She and I were both there representing the district. We're hopeful that we've encouraged some of the students from Utica University to sign up to be substitutes for us.

Mrs. Padula: That's awesome.

Mr. Paul: That Utica University relationship I think is key with this city and working with Mohawk Valley Community College. Do we know if we're working on a program to kind of get those MV students or those Proctor students and those Utica University students to come and actually work here in our district.

Mrs. LaGase: Yes. We have already started to lay the groundwork there. We started it with fieldwork, a direct line for fieldwork placements and then we're looking to expand that to student teaching. Then hopefully if our student teaching experience is positive and they are good candidates for us, that we can possibly move into an offer of employment before they conclude their student teaching experience.

Mr. Paul: Thank you.

Reading Program Update – Vanessa Rejrat, District Wide AIS Facilitator

Mrs. Rejrat presented an update on the Reading Program in the Utica City School District.

Questions from the Board Members:

President Hobika, Jr.: I apologize for interrupting. This seems like a very technical presentation. One of the questions that I have is was there a debate between two schools of thought on the program that was going to be used on top of I-Ready because that's what we use. There was a debate on whether we should use the second portion of I-Ready or a different Program with a different platform. And if that was the case, I would just like to understand how the debate occurred and how we ended up arriving at whatever recommendation.

Mrs. Rejrat: There was no debate that I know of, but there was a question raised about using Wonders which is the ELA series which also had a reading component to it called Wonder Works. There was a question raised whether or not we can still use Wonders. Once it was presented to the committee, the decision was yes Wonders can still be used as a supplemental material which means its not the main content, but if teachers feel like it's going to help, they still may use it.

President Hobika, Jr.: The other question that I had is when we were arriving at this program did we look at the reading scores or the reading levels prior to the pandemic and then look at the cohort reading scores after we did the virtual for a period of time to see where we were? How do you as a group arrive at like the plan to try to fix it, I guess would be my question.

Mrs. Rejrat: What we're looking at is what was going on in the reading classes. And what was going on in the reading classes was pretty much mirroring what was going on in the ELA classes.

President Hobika, Jr.: Which was?

Mrs. Rejrat: They were supporting the curriculum that was happening in ELA which doesn't sound like a terrible thing. But what our students who need reading intervention really need are those foundational skills I keep mentioning – the phonics, the decoding. If they don't have those skills, they are never going to be able to get the comprehension skills that they are learning in ELA class. So, that's why we had to take a look at our program because Wonder Works was doing that. Wonder Works was mirroring what was happening in the classroom with the comprehension skills which is too high for our students. Even our students in 3-6 who are part of this 40% who are reading two grade levels below.

President Hobika, Jr.: Do we have different percentages that are lower than that.

Mrs. Rejrat: Yes, some.

President Hobika, Jr.: So when that 40%, you're talking about 40% of our students are reading 2 grade levels below and 60% are reading on grade level or at least one? Or are you saying that's just the 40 we're targeting?

Mrs. Rejrat: The 40 is two or more grade levels below, but we are targeting students who are 2 or 1 grade levels below and also students that scored a one or a two on the New York State ELA.

President Hobika, Jr.: Ok, so this plan that you put in place you're doing that because the group that put it together felt that we needed to address phonics? I know what phonics are but what is decoding?

Member from the audience explained decoding but was inaudible to this recorder.

President Hobika, Jr.: Is this reading program that we're implementing, that is going to augment to supplement what we have....

Mrs. Rejrat: Yes, so instead of what the Reading Teachers were doing prior to this, Wonder Works was being used but some of them were also focusing on RTI using different materials. Now it's going to be more streamlined K-2 and 3-6. K-2 will be using Phonics for Reading and 3-6 will be using what's called magnetic reading which also has that phonics piece but for older students. It's very specific which is why the teachers love this program. It was their first choice. They made sure when the district team left, we knew we liked both programs, but the I-Ready Programs are our first choice. We took that back to administration and the district has adopted the I-Ready and the Phonics for Reading and the Magnetic Program. Another piece to the I-Reading Program that the teachers loved is that it aligns to I-Ready that we're already using. They can assign students additional lessons using I-Ready and they're going to be aligned. They can also use the diagnostic in different assessment measures from I-Ready to check the students reading abilities to see if they're showing growth so on and so forth.

President Hobika, Jr.: Good.

Mrs. Knoop: You just said district team. When you're saying district team, who does that included? Does that not include all of the Reading Teachers? How did you pick who was..

Mrs. Rejrat: There was a district committee that consisted of Ms. Klimeck, Ms. Fleck, David Bearup, 2 District Facilitators, 2 Reading Teachers, 1 Principal and myself. We just started planning. Then we had 2 different teacher meetings and a facilitator meeting that just focused on reading and went from there.

Mrs. Knoop: And all of the Reading Teachers were at the table for that?

Mrs. Rejrat: The first meeting we had one representative from each building. It was over the summer and several people were away.

Mrs. Knoop: Were they all notified?

Mrs. Rejrat: We had a second meeting and then everyone at that point was notified. There's 26 Reading Teachers all together. All 26 were invited to either one of the two sessions. I think we had almost 12, we had almost half.

President Hobika, Jr.: Has this plan been implemented already?

Mrs. Rejrat: Yes.

President Hobika, Jr.: Excellent.

Mr. Paul: What options are available for students outside of school once they are away from the school building itself.

Mrs. Rejrat: Teachers can assign additional I-Ready lessons. We are also going to be starting our extended day programs. During our extended day programs we can offer more support for students there as well. That's why the I-Ready connection is so important because now we have that option. Even classroom teachers can assign different lessons. Every teacher has access to I-Ready which makes this just a seamless transition.

Mr. Paul: How does this track with other programs like say Con Academy?

Mrs. Rejrat: Con Academy I believe is not so much a Reading Program, but it's a supplemental resource. But it is a well like resource and several teachers in our district do use it.

Mr. Paul: Thank you.

President Hobika, Jr.: The non-Reading Teachers have they given you guys any feedback on whether or not they're seeing any improvement or is it too early?

Mrs. Rejrat: Not yet. I haven't surveyed them, but that is something that we can ask.

President Hobika, Jr.: I think it might be a good idea.

Mrs. Rejrat: Absolutely. We've been focusing on the Reading Teachers right now because it's so new, but that's a great idea.

President Hobika, Jr.: Great, thank you.

School Safety Update – William Williams, Safety and Security Coordinator

President Hobika, Jr.: I just have one question before you start. Do you think that it would be possible to do that night game for the seniors? Not to put you on the spot. Possibly?

Mr. Williams: I take my marching orders from you guys. Tell me what's got to be done and I'll do what I have to do. I mean it.

President Hobika, Jr.: I think there are some people that would like to see it. The question is can we do it with limited incidents.

Mr. Williams: I'm going to be honest with you. With the assistance from the Utica Police Department, the police officers that we have hired, the security staff that we have now and we're continuing to hire to keep that compliment. I'm telling you right now, everything that I see and I'm knocking hard on wood, I see things are getting better and looking much better for our schools that I can see compared to what it was last year at this time. I was out on the streets when this was happening, it was tough. I mean whatever you guys want.

President Hobika, Jr.: It would be a leap of faith. The question is can we do it without major incident?

Mrs. Padula: I think that's up to the students.

Mr. Williams: I can never say that there wouldn't be a major incident. I can tell you I will have as many people there to secure the fans and the students and everybody there as much as I could. Mr. Hobika, I'm going to be honest with you. I was a young police officer in uniform patrol. I was there during those things, and it was bad. Police car windshields getting cracked, we're getting pummeled with rocks outside of the press box. It was terrible. I watched the gauntlet of kids walking down the streets and the neighbors and the cars and everything else getting pummeled with rocks and the neighbors complaining. It was tough. Things have changed, I know that. I would have to sit down and do a nice security plan. Whatever you want, I'll do. It's my job.

President Hobika, Jr.: I just want you to take a look into it and see if it's something we might be able to accomplish without a gargantuan effort.

Mr. Williams: I will sit down with the Superintendent. And John Syrotynski has been a great help because he was back then, and he comes back with the ideas, and he helps me out a lot with that stuff. I will sit down with the Chief and we'll do it.

President Hobika, Jr.: Ok.

Mr. Williams provided the Board of Education with the School Safety Update.

Questions from the Board Members:

Mrs. Padula: I have 2 questions for you. I know we talked about this previously with some of the security guards and their contracts and working the 29 hours and some sort of flex in shift just so that we make sure there are security guards there if the buses are late if the principal is still in the building. Are you going to hire for those? Is it on a school-by-school basis?

Mr. Williams: The school issue that you're talking about, when you told me I went up there and I saw it. I saw firsthand what you were talking about. It wasn't nothing I've ever taught the school staff, my security staff. Not trying to put down a school or a principal. I had a talk with the principal and the principal saw where I was at, and she agreed to where I was at. It has been corrected. The funny thing is though a lot of the people I am interviewing – do you want to come in on a couple days basis or a couple hours here and there and we will use to fill in those spots.

Mrs. Padula: Ok, perfect.

Mr. Williams: So what you're asking for is definitely a yes.

Mrs. Padula: I just want to make sure that there's a security officer there. My next question was, in a perfect world if you can let us know how many more weapon detection systems you would like to purchase. I witnessed a couple of sporting events where there was thunder and lightening and some of the coaches couldn't get into the building. Their badges don't work on the sides because there's not a metal detection system there, so they walked their students around. Which is ok except for God forbid there is an incident which a child gets hurt and they cannot access the gym. I've seen it at a couple of elementary schools on lunch when a TA wants to walk out of the cafeteria and take their students out for recess they have to walk back around the front of the building because their badge no longer works. I understand it from safety standpoint and with the metal detection system, but God forbid there's an emergency and a child is choking or fell. I worry that they can't get back into the school very fast. They would have to walk back around to the front of the building. I don't know if you can grant access. To me when they walk through it once and if they weren't leaving the premise then they should be allowed back in. That is your call, that's your territory. I just worry if a child gets injured.

Mr. Williams: What you brought up, we actually had a meeting about that. The UTA President was there, the UAA President was there, Mr. Falchi was there. They all agreed that what we would do is that the entrances that had the readers, we would contact the building principal and we will find out what secondary door that you want open for emergency purposes only. Or for staff members to come in and out for like recess and stuff like that. Tony Franco who does all that stuff contacted the principal and what they did was they told him the doors. Wherever there's not a machine basically rule of thumb the readers are off; rule of thumb – I'm not saying all of them. I know there was one at Columbus recently, but it was something different and we took care of that. Having said that, the principals told us the doors where they wanted the readers off and told us the doors where she wanted the readers on and who she wanted to have access. Tony Franco actually did that, and everyone was there.

Mrs. Padula: No one is going to complain about going the long way.

Mr. Williams: What I will do is I will have Tony Franco tomorrow when I come in recontact all the principals and just see if there is a different door maybe they want done.

Mrs. Padula: Just for recess or a sporting event. Like JFK they have to walk all the way back around the front, the field is in the back – if a kid has an injury; that's just time.

Mr. Williams: I agree.

Mr. Paul: I have a question and you and I kind of talked about this at the game on Saturday. Just that upper entrance kind of access for handicapped and elderly, would you need a machine there?

Mr. Williams: The problem we have is a person who is handicapped or disabled, they can't really walk through a machine.

Mr. Paul: Ok.

Mr. Williams: Such as with Proctor when we have the disabled students coming in. What we do is we use a wand on them, and we do that. Last Thursday Mr. Perrotta and myself, we saw as the games were coming and issues were coming up to spearhead the issue. What we did was we went to Mr. Karam and Mr. Karam agreed that it was a smart idea to have security. We have security at that post and have a key and a wand and allow those individuals can come up and they can come in that way. We definitely have that now.

Mr. Paul: Have we put that out there to our families that are going to visit these games.

Mr. Williams: I don't know what Mr. Perrotta has done in regard to that. I called him a little while ago. I will call him again and tell him to definitely put it out in whatever type of media platform he uses.

Announcements and Reports

Student Representative – Tha Dah Muee Kyet

Ms. Kyet presented the update on events in the schools.

Questions from the Board Members:
None

PTO/PTA, Shared Decision-Making Committees, Student Councils, CSE Chairs, Title I, UTA, UAA, UTC, Teamsters Local 182, SEIU Local 200B, M.V. Buildings and Trades Council

Mr. Jamie Green, UTA Vice President provided UTA comments.

Questions from the Board Members:
None

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Karam presented his Superintendent's Report dated September 27, 2022 to the Board of Education for approval.

President Hobika, Jr. asked the Board Members if there were any items that needed clarification before a motion was made on the Consent Agenda. At this time, he polled Board Members:

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FOR ACTION:**Volume LVII****Report No. S – 54****SUBJECT:****Application for Extended Field Trip**

Authorization is requested of the Board of Education to approve approximately one hundred eight (108) Columbus Elementary School fourth grade students to travel to the Stanley Theatre in Utica, NY to attend the Nutcracker Ballet on Thursday, December 1, 2022. The Nutcracker Ballet provides students with choreography and performance, as well opportunities to communicate a story, and express feelings and emotions through movement to discover imaginative abilities.

Supervision of these students will be provided by Michele Jackson, Teacher, Katherine Murphy, Teacher, Michele Parrotta, Teacher, Melissa Evolo, Teacher, Heather Guidera, Teacher, Mike and Nicole Kohlbrenner, parents, Michelle Hungerford, parent, Nasean Lovett, parent, Selma Merdanovic, parent, Tatiana Campos, parent, Mieu Lang Fam, Teacher Assistant, Jennifer Martin, parent, and Shayna Huych, parent.

This trip was reviewed and approved by Elizabeth Gerling, Principal at Columbus Elementary School and Steven Falchi, Administrative Director of Curriculum & Instruction K-12.

FOR ACTION:**Volume LVII****Report No. S – 55****SUBJECT:****Application for Extended Field Trip**

Authorization is requested of the Board of Education to approve approximately one hundred eight (108) Columbus Elementary School fourth grade students to travel to Potato Hill Farms and Black River Outdoor Education Program (BROEP) in Boonville, NY on Wednesday, October 12, 2022. Black River Outdoor Education Program establishes awareness, appreciation, and understanding of the environment by providing educational lessons in geology, ecology, biology, and history in outdoor activities.

Supervision of these students will be provided by Michele Jackson, Teacher, Katherine Murphy, Teacher, Michele Parrotta, Teacher, Melissa Evolo, Teacher, Heather Guidera, Teacher, Mike and Nicole Kohlbrenner, parents, Nasean Lovett, parent, Selma Merdanovic, parent, Tatiana Campos, parent, Mieu Lang Fam, Teacher Assistant, Jennifer Martin, parent, and Shayna Huych, parent.

This trip was reviewed and approved by Elizabeth Gerling, Principal at Columbus Elementary School and Steven Falchi, Administrative Director of Curriculum & Instruction K-12.

FOR ACTION:**Volume LVII****Report No. S – 56****SUBJECT:****Application for Extended Field Trip**

Authorization is requested of the Board of Education to approve approximately sixty-five (65) Albany Elementary School second grade students to travel to the Pumpkin Junction in Sauquoit, New York on Friday, October 21, 2022. Students will go on a hayride, choose a pumpkin, and walk through a corn maze, which will allow them to learn about farming and how pumpkins are grown.

Supervision of these students will be provided by Makenzie Amodio, Teacher, Shannon Ciccone, Teacher, Nicole Dziedzic, Teacher, Kathleen Mellnitz, Teacher, Santina Wilk, parent, Kelli Goodman, Teacher Assistant/parent, Sanela Causevic, parent, Angela Mescall, parent, Densia Dasic, parent, Amira Pilav, parent, Kelli Durso, parent, and Adrianna Ward, parent.

This trip was reviewed and approved by Tania Kalavazoff, Interim Principal at Albany Elementary School and Steven Falchi, Administrative Director of Curriculum & Instruction K-12.

FOR ACTION:**Volume LVII****Report No. S – 57****SUBJECT:****Application for Extended Field Trip**

Authorization is requested of the Board of Education to approve approximately one hundred twenty-five (125) Columbus Elementary School Kindergarten students to travel to Savicki Farms located in Clinton, NY on Thursday, October 6, 2022 (rain date – Wednesday, October 26, 2022). This trip will allow students to see how/where pumpkins grow (living/life cycle of a plant) which is something covered in the science curriculum.

Supervision of these students will be provided by Michael Pagliaro, Teacher, Lori Chiarello, Teacher Assistant, Lianne Nimey, Teacher, MaryTheresa Mezzanini, Teacher Assistant, Audrea Rinaldo, Teacher, Nicole Woolheater, Teacher Assistant, Hannah Smith, Teacher, Joany Marquez, Teacher Assistant, Connie Zelsnack, Teacher, Joann DiNardo, Teacher Assistant, Emily Liggins, parent, Rebeca Nix, parent, Tieren Hotaling, parent, Enisa Bajrektarenc, parent, Alexis Hubbard, parent, and Jennifer Soto, parent.

This trip was reviewed and approved by Elizabeth Gerling, Principal at Columbus Elementary School and Steven Falchi, Administrative Director of Curriculum & Instruction K-12.

FOR ACTION:**Volume LVII****Report No. S – 58****SUBJECT:****Application for Extended Field Trip**

Authorization is requested of the Board of Education to approve approximately fifteen (15) Hughes Elementary School 15:1 Special Education students to travel to Teel Farms in Barneveld, NY on Tuesday, October 18, 2022. This trip will allow the students to tour the farm, meet the animals, go through a corn maze, enjoy a picnic, and take home a pumpkin. It will teach the students about farm activities, how food is grown, and provide fall-themed enrichment.

Supervision of these students will be provided by Corey Mullin, Special Education Teacher, Allison Gates, Occupational Therapist and Leslie Stockman, Speech Therapist.

This trip was reviewed and approved by Mary Belden, Principal at Hughes Elementary School and Steven Falchi, Administrative Director of Curriculum & Instruction K-12

FOR ACTION:**Volume LVII****Report No. S – 59****SUBJECT:****Application for Extended Field Trip**

Authorization is requested of the Board of Education to approve approximately sixty-nine (69) Albany Elementary School Kindergarten students to travel to Savicki Farms located in Clinton, NY on Wednesday, October 19, 2022. This trip will allow students to see how/where pumpkins grow (living/life cycle of a plant) and expand their problem-solving skills (maze).

Supervision of these students will be provided by Carla DuMoulin, Teacher, Jennifer Voce, Teacher, Caitlin Mennig, Teacher, Palma Medice, Teacher Assistant, Fannie Benson, Teacher Assistant, Kelli Goodman, Teacher Assistant, Rebecca Donato, parent, Kayla Davis, parent, Kelly Monaco, parent, Sajara Sahman, parent, Elvisa Selimovic, parent, Charice Drake, parent, and Thomasina Armstrong, parent.

This trip was reviewed and approved by Tania Kalavazoff, Interim Principal at Albany Elementary School and Steven Falchi, Administrative Director of Curriculum & Instruction K-12.

FOR ACTION:**Volume LVII****Report No. S – 60****SUBJECT:****Application for Extended Field Trip**

Authorization is requested of the Board of Education to approve approximately twenty-two (22) Albany Elementary School students to travel to the Pumpkin Junction in Sauquoit, New York on Thursday, October 6, 2022. Students will go on a hayride, choose a pumpkin, walk through a corn maze, and enjoy cider and donuts, giving them the opportunity to learn about the life cycle of a pumpkin, and provide fall-themed enrichment.

Supervision of these students will be provided by Kristen Joy, Teacher, Dina Fernald, Teacher, Jessica Morris, Teacher Assistant, Immani Patterson, Teacher Assistant, Kelley Caruso, Teacher Assistant, Denise Fargas, Teacher Assistant, Courtney Leaman, Teacher Assistant, and Diane Butler, Teacher Assistant.

This trip was reviewed and approved by Tania Kalavazoff, Interim Principal at Albany Elementary School and Steven Falchi, Administrative Director of Curriculum & Instruction K-12.

FOR ACTION:**Volume LVII****Report No. S – 61****SUBJECT:****Application for Extended Field Trip**

Authorization is requested of the Board of Education to approve approximately sixty-four (64) General Herkimer Elementary School students to travel to Savicki Farms located in Clinton, NY on Friday, October 14, 2022. This trip will allow students to see how/where apples and pumpkins grow and provide fall-themed enrichment.

Supervision of these students will be provided by Melissa Williams, Teacher, Elida Dapre, Microcomputer Specialist, Kelly Trexler, Teacher, Lauren Vomer, Teacher, Sara Griffiths, Teacher, Katelyn Pisano, parent, Penny VanDusen, Teacher, Shaquilla Christopher, parent, Denise Murphy-Reich, parent, and Latiqua Darby, parent.

This trip was reviewed and approved by Michele Cotter, Principal at General Herkimer Elementary School and Steven Falchi, Administrative Director of Curriculum & Instruction K-12.

FOR ACTION:**Volume LVI****Report No. B – 12****SUBJECT:****Budget Calendar**

Authorization is requested to accept the following budget calendar as presented by the Finance Office to the Board of Education for the 2023-2024 school year:

Date	Task	Responsibility
August 2022	Superintendent begins formal budget process Send budget packets to Directors Finance Office sends school budgets to building principals	Superintendent School Business Official School Business Official
September 2022	Principals submit school budget requests to Director of Curriculum/Instruction and Finance Office, who submits to Superintendent	Principals
September 2022	Directors submit budget requests to Director of Curriculum/Instruction and Finance Office, who submits to Superintendent	Directors
September 27, 2022	Board of Education adopts 2023-2024 budget calendar and sets parameters	Board of Education
September/October 2022	Finance Office compiles all requests into the proposed budget	School Business Official
September/October 2022	Federal Budget reviewed	Superintendent, School Business Official and Director of Grants, Contracts & Compliance
October 2022	Administration compiles student enrollment information (BEDS)	Director of Grants, Contracts & Compliance
December 2022	Superintendent will meet with Cabinet to review proposed budget	Superintendent
February 2023	Superintendent presents proposed budget to Board of Education (if first run of state aid allocation from Albany is available)	Superintendent
February 2023	Budget workshop	Superintendent, School Business Official and Board of Education
February/March 2023	Informal Public hearing to receive input for Budget	Superintendent, Board of Education and School Business Official
February/March/April 2023	Board of Education reviews proposed budget.	Superintendent, Board of Education and School Business Official
March 1, 2023	Submit information to calculate tax levy limit to state comptroller's office	School Business Official
March 28 – April 4, 2023	Legal Notice for Budget Hearing/Budget annual vote to newspaper	Clerk of the Board
April 2023	Safety Plan upgraded and reviewed by Health and Safety Committee	School Business Official/ Health and Safety Committee
April 4 or 11, 2023	Board of Education adopts Final Budget (last day to adopt budget is April 24, 2023)	Board of Education
April 25 - 27, 2023	Property Tax Report Card published and sent to State/newspaper	School Business Official
April 18 - May 2, 2023	District newsletter is compiled and budget statement and required attachments must be made available, upon request, at each school building and at the district office, public or free association library and on the district's website	School Business Official
May 2 or 9, 2023	Formal Budget hearing/Contract for Excellence hearing Present and adopt Safety Plan	Board of Education, Clerk of the Board and School Business Official
May 3 – May 10, 2023	Mail Budget Notice and Newsletter	School Business Official
May 16, 2023	Budget vote	Clerk of the Board

FOR ACTION:**Volume LVII****Report No. P – 5****SUBJECT:****Mentors/Mentees for 2022-2023**

It is recommended that the following Mentors/Mentees for school year 2022-2023 be approved:

Mentee/New Teacher	Position	School	Mentor
Chelsy A. Diaz Amaya	E.S.O.L. / Grade 1 Bilingual	Columbus	Hannah Smith
Joshua P. Fucci	Social Worker	Columbus	Thomas Joslyn
Brittany M. Bohling	Grade 6	Albany	Jaime Cavallo-Volz
Christiana R. Rowlands	Occupational Therapist	.3 Charter/.1 ND/.1 MLK/.5 Jones	Melissa Raux
Arianna M. Wiater	Grade 3	Jefferson	Lisa Griffin
Caitlin M. Adams	Grade 6	Albany	Josie Oliver
Christy Battinelli	E.S.O.L. Teacher	Watson Williams	Christy Cannistra
Carolyn M. Copeland	Occupational Therapist	.1 JFK/.2 Donovan/.1 Proctor/.6 Jefferson	Rene Mootz
Madison A. DelMedico	Music	.6 Jones/.4 King (Vocal)	Gregory Brockway
Kaylee A. Dodge	Speech Language Pathologist	.2 ND/.2 Charter/.2 GH/.4 Conkling	Catherine Harter
Madison D. Garcia	Kindergarten	Conkling	RoseAnn Eaniello
Vanessa Glenn-Kupelian	Social Studies	Kennedy	Vanessa Houck
Madeline B. Krecidlo	Grade 2	Jones	Melissa Sawanec
Merissa L. Marthage	Library Media Specialist	Jefferson	Carole Rahme
David G. Norton	E.S.O.L.	Kennedy	Patricia Kapps
Adam M. Schultz	Special Education 15:1:1	Conkling	Savannah Leo
Paige A. DelGrego	Grade 1	King	Tammy Filletti
Marissa A. Hajec	Physical Therapist	.6 Jones/.3 Watson/.1 ND	Lauren Mowers
Katherine E. Hall	School Counselor	Proctor	Alexis McKerrow
Jeffrey A. Martinez	Technology	Donovan	Victoria Stutzenstein-Mankad
Meghan M. Salerno	Social Worker	Proctor	Kayla DeCarr
MacKenzie R. Vitale	Grade 6	Columbus	Kim Ferrucci
Bailey R. Zaleski	Social Studies	Donovan	Alexis Holmer
Emily Bawolak	Grade 2	Kernan	Stephanie Scott
Alexandria Bick	Grade 6	Albany	Elizabeth Schachtler
Kelsey P. Foose	School Counselor	Proctor	Carrie Dentino
Nicholas Gentile	Mathematics	Proctor	Megan Cappadonia
Sara Head	Grade 5	Kernan	Lindsey Tutino

FOR ACTION:**Volume LVII****Report No. P – 5****SUBJECT:****Mentors/Mentees for 2022-2023 (Con'd)**

It is recommended that the following Mentors/Mentees for school year 2022-2023 be approved:

Mentee/New Teacher	Position	School	Mentor
Hilary Lonis	Grade 6	Conkling	Dawn Mastroianni
Kimberly Lucero	Library Media Specialist	Albany	Crystal Barringer
Melissa Marris	Grade 4	Jones	Colleen Ciecko
Taylor Oliver	Physical Education	King	Susan Gazzilli
Kimberly Page	Physical Therapist	.8 Conkling/.2 Charter	Beth Putney
Victoria Precheur	Social Worker	Kernan	Kara LaFache
Russell Ritzel	Music	Donovan	Jennifer Tillotson
Timothy Quattrociocchi	Social Studies	Donovan	Ryan Fagan
Timothy Abone	Physical Education	Kernan	Jerome Tine
Kelly Gordan	Physical Education	Proctor	Corrine Jensen
Catherine Hudack	Social Worker	General Herkimer	Deborah Rowlands
Anthony Mucurio	Physical Education	Watson Williams	David Caruso
Mary Rose Noonan	Social Worker	Jones	Erica Jalonack
Riley Stevens	English	Kennedy	Amy Hansen
Katrina Scalzo	Grade 1	Albany	Adrianna Liberatore
Dawn Wheeler	Grade 1	Watson Williams	Debra Clark
Lynn Shibley	Grade 6	Kernan	Andrea Wilson
Madelynn Anweiler	Grade 2	Kernan	Samantha Judycki
Nicole Wiess	Social Worker	Albany	Kara LaFache
Melissa Maldando	Social Worker	Donovan	Deborah Rowlands
Senora Pierce	Social Worker	Kennedy	Crystal Bass
Jaclyn Durrigan	Grade 6	Conkling	Rebecca Blaise
Emily Lehner	Family and Consumer Science	Kennedy	Adam Colone
Melissa Sperry	Special Education	Conkling	Patti Terry

FOR ACTION:**Volume LVII****Report No. P – 5****SUBJECT:****Abandonment of Position****Food Service/Monitor**

It is recommended that the following abandonment of position be accepted:

Antoinette Quinones

Food Service Worker-Breakfast and Lunch Program
District-Wide – not to exceed 29 hours per week
Effective: September 8, 2022

Nancy A. Choquette
531 Patricia Drive
Clinton, NY 13323

Special Education Teacher (Probationary)
Effective: September 28, 2022
Salary: I-9, BA = \$48,201 (prorated) per UTA Contract
Certification: Initial – Students with Disabilities (Grades 1-6);
Initial – Students with Disabilities (Birth-Grade 2);
Initial – Childhood Education (Grades 1-6);
Initial – Early Childhood Education (Birth-Grade 2)
Tenure Award Date: September 28, 2026
Education: B.S., Utica College, 5/15
Experience: Special Education Teacher, Unadilla Valley Central
School District, New Berlin, NY, 9/17–6/19; Substitute Teacher,
Utica City School District, Utica, NY
1/02 to present

FOR ACTION:

Volume LVII

Report No. P – 5

SUBJECT:

Appointments

Teacher

It is recommended that the following appointments be approved:

Melissa Caldwell
8 Melrose Avenue
Utica, NY 13502

School Social Worker (Probationary)
Effective: October 17, 2022
Salary: N-14, MA+60 = \$75,041, plus School Social Worker
Stipend - \$1,800 = \$76,841 (prorated) per UTA Contract
Certification: Provisional – School Social Worker (pending)
Tenure Award Date: October 17, 2026
Education: M.S.W., SUNY Albany, 12/13;
B.A., Syracuse University, 5/99
Experience: Social Worker II, Central New York Psychiatric
Center, Marcy, NY
3/17 to present

Jaelyn E. Durrigan
15 Van Vorst Street
Utica, NY 13501

Elementary Teacher (Probationary)
Effective: Retroactively on August 31, 2022
Salary: E-5, MA+48 = \$44,250 per UTA Contract
Certification: Emergency COVID-19 – Childhood Education
(Grades 1-6); Initial – Childhood Education (Grades 1-6) pending
Tenure Award Date: August 31, 2026
Education: M.S., Grand Canyon University, 12/20;
B.S., University of Phoenix, 9/10
Experience: Permanent Substitute, Myles Elementary School
New Hartford, NY
9/21 to present

John A. Freleigh
400 Van Roen Road
Utica, NY 13502

Music Teacher (Probationary)
Effective: Retroactively on August 31, 2022
Salary: H-8, MA+36 = \$49,765 per UTA Contract
Certification: Permanent – Music K-12
Tenure Award Date: August 31, 2026
Education: M.S., Syracuse University, 12/01;
B.S., Hartwick College, 5/84
Experience: Strings/Orchestra Teacher, Holland Patent Central
School District, Holland Patent, NY
9/17 to present

<u>FOR ACTION:</u>	Volume LVII	Report No. P – 5
SUBJECT:	Appointments	Teacher

It is recommended that the following appointments be approved:

Emily A. Lehner
12 Grove Street
Ilion, NY 13367

Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher (Probationary)
Effective: Retroactively on September 26, 2022
Salary: M-13, MA+30 = \$63,321 per UTA Contract
Certification: Emergency COVID – Family and Consumer Sciences
Tenure Award Date: September 26, 2026
Education: M.S., Buffalo State, 12/20; B.A., Paul Smiths College, 12/04
Experience: Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher, Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District, Frankfort, NY 10/18 to present

Melissa Maldonado
32 Greenman Avenue
New York Mills, NY 13417

School Social Worker (Probationary)
Effective: Retroactively on August 31, 2022
Salary: N-14, MA+42 = \$72,472, plus School Social Worker Stipend - \$1,800 = \$74,272 per UTA Contract
Certification: Provisional – School Social Worker
Tenure Award Date: August 31, 2026
Education: M.S.W., University at Albany, 5/08; B.A., SUNY IT, 12/01
Experience: Primary Therapist, CNY Psychiatric Center Marcy, NY, 5/12 – 5/22; School Social Worker, Utica City School District, Utica, NY 9/09 to 5/12

Diana G. Mancuso
25 South Hills Drive
New Hartford, NY 13413

Special Education Teacher (Probationary)
Effective: Retroactively on August 31, 2022
Salary: G-7, MA+42 = \$48,040 per UTA Contract
Certification: Permanent – Students with Disabilities (Grades 5-9) Generalist
Tenure Award Date: August 31, 2026
Education: M.S., Touro College, 1/10; B.S., LeMoyne College, 1/05
Experience: Special Education Teacher, Herkimer BOCES Herkimer, NY 9/15 to 6/19

Christopher Pecheone
1016 Lamb Street
Utica, NY 13502

Special Education Teacher (Probationary)
Effective: Retroactively on August 31, 2022
Salary: J-10, MA+30 = \$54,030 per UTA Contract
Certification: Initial – Students with Disabilities (Grades 1-6)
Tenure Award Date: August 31, 2026
Education: M.S., Grand Canyon University, 1/15; B.S., SUNY Oneonta, 12/10
Experience: Special Education Teacher, Herkimer BOCES Herkimer, NY 9/20 to present

FOR ACTION:**Volume LVII****Report No. P – 5****SUBJECT:****Appointments****Teacher**

It is recommended that the following appointments be approved:

Jessica Piazza
1287 Higby Road
Frankfort, NY 13340

Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher (Probationary)
Effective: September 28, 2022
Salary: O 2-16, MA+36 = \$78,408 (prorated) per UTA Contract
Certification: Professional – Family and Consumer Sciences
Professional – Health Education
Tenure Award Date: September 28, 2025
Education: M.S., SUNY Cortland, 12/12; B.S., SUNY Cortland, 12/07
Experience: Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher,
Central Valley School District, Mohawk, NY
9/13 to present

Senora M. Pierce
20 Cottage Place, Apt. 6
Utica, NY 13502

School Social Worker (Probationary)
Effective: Retroactively on August 31, 2022
Salary: C-3, MA+66 = \$41,717, plus School Social Worker
Stipend - \$1,800 = \$43,517 per UTA Contract
Certification: Provisional – School Social Worker (pending)
Tenure Award Date: August 31, 2026
Education: M.S.W., Simmons University, 3/21;
B.S., SUNY Empire State College, 5/17
Experience: Social Worker Intern, Utica College Opportunity
Program, Utica, NY
10/20 to 3/21

Caitlin M. Recchio
3804 Fountain Street
Clinton, NY 13323

Occupational Therapist (Probationary)
Effective: November 1, 2022
Salary: K-11, MS+36 = \$57,283, plus Occupational Therapist
Stipend - \$1,600 = \$58,883 (prorated) per UTA Contract
Certification: Professional – Occupational Therapist License
Education: M.S., Utica College, 5/11; B.S., Utica College, 5/10
Experience: Occupational Therapist, Rome Memorial Hospital
Rome, NY, 11/20-present; Occupational Therapist, Visiting
Nurses Association-Home Care, Utica, NY, 9/18-3/20;
Occupational Therapist, Rome Memorial Hospital Rome, NY,
10/12 to 11/18

FOR ACTION:**Volume LVII****Report No. P – 5****SUBJECT:****Appointments****Teacher**

It is recommended that the following appointments be approved:

Sane Sinanaj
117 Oxford Road
New Hartford, NY 13413

Special Education Teacher (Probationary)
Effective: Retroactively on August 31, 2022
Salary: E-5, MA+30 = \$42,738 per UTA Contract
Certification: Initial – Childhood Education (Grades 1-6)
Initial – Students with Disabilities (Grades 1-6) pending
Tenure Award Date: August 31, 2026
Education: M.S., SUNY Oneonta, 5/23; B.S., SUNY
Oneonta, 5/20
Experience: ELA Intervention Support Teacher, Utica
Academy of Science, Utica, NY
9/21 to 6/22

Melissa Sperry
359 Hacadam Road
Sauquoit, NY 13456

Special Education Teacher (Probationary)
Effective: Retroactively on August 31, 2022
Salary: E-5, MA+54 = \$44,768 per UTA Contract
Certification: Initial – Childhood Education (Grades 1-6);
Initial – Students with Disabilities (Grades 1-6) pending
Tenure Award Date: August 31, 2026
Education: M.S., SUNY Potsdam, 8/21, B.S., Empire
State College, 5/18
Experience: Long-Term Substitute, Herkimer Elementary
School, Herkimer, NY
9/21 to 6/22

Nicole K. Weis
72 ½ College Street
Clinton, NY 13323

School Social Worker (Probationary)
Effective: Retroactively on August 31, 2022
Salary: F-6, MA+66 = \$48,019, plus School Social Worker
Stipend - \$1,800 = \$49,819 per UTA Contract
Certification: Provisional – School Social Worker (pending)
Tenure Award Date: August 31, 2026
Education: M.S.W., Rutgers University, 12/20;
M.S., California University of Pennsylvania, 12/11;
B.S., Cazenovia College, 5/10
Experience: Youth Care Coordinator, ICAN
Utica, NY
4/20 to present

<u>FOR ACTION:</u>	Volume LVI	Report No. P – 5
SUBJECT:	Appointment	Food Service/Monitor

It is recommended that the following appointment be approved:

Senad Gicic
P.O. Box 475
Utica, NY 13503

Monitor-Breakfast and Lunch Program
District-Wide – not to exceed 29 hours per week
Effective: October 3, 2022
Salary: \$16.00 per hour
Education: Graduated University of Novi Pazar Serbia, 1989
Experience: Monitor, Durham Bus Company, 2005-2014;
Monitor-Lunch Program, Utica City School District, Utica, NY,
2014-2016; and Monitor-Lunch Program, Utica City School
District, Utica, NY
4/28/22 to present

<u>FOR ACTION:</u>	Volume LVII	Report No. P – 5
SUBJECT:	Appointments	Teacher Assistant

It is recommended that the following appointments be approved:

Aalisah Aponte
P.O. Box 4488
Utica, NY 13504

Teacher Assistant – Special Education
District-Wide- 29 hours per week
Effective: September 30, 2022
Salary: \$18.00 per hour
Education: Graduate of Proctor High School
Experience: Cashier, Lowe’s, Utica, NY
9/21 to present

Dewanda Brooks
1512 West Street
Utica, NY 13501

Teacher Assistant* – Special Education
District-Wide – 29 hours per week
Effective: September 28, 2022
Salary: \$18.00 per hour
Education: Graduate of Proctor High School
Experience: Teacher Assistant, Academics First
Utica, NY
7/21 to present

*Pending fingerprint clearance through New York State Education Department.

JVon Evans
1004 White Place, Apt. 1
Utica, NY 13501

Security Monitor*
District-Wide – not to exceed 29 hours per week
Effective: September 28, 2022
Salary: \$17.73 per hour
Education: Graduate of Proctor High School
Experience: Mover, Keith’s Moving Company
Syracuse, NY
1/21 to 8/22

David Fambrough
1577 Elm Street
Utica, NY 13501

Security Monitor*
District-Wide – not to exceed 29 hours per week
Effective: September 28, 2022
Salary: \$17.73 per hour
Education: Graduate of Jackson High School
Experience: Order Filler, Walmart Distribution Center
Marcy, NY
5/22 to 9/22

James Fierro
10 Windsor Terrace
Utica, NY 13501

Security Monitor
District-Wide – not to exceed 29 hours per week
Effective: September 6, 2022
Salary: \$18.70 per hour
Education: Graduate of Proctor High School
Experience: Security Monitor, Utica City School District,
9/15 to 7/22

Thomas Foster III
1634 Neilson Street
Utica, NY 13501

Security Monitor*
District-Wide – not to exceed 29 hours per week
Effective: September 28, 2022
Salary: \$17.73 per hour
Education: Graduate of Careers in Sports High School
Experience: Crew Member, Little Caesars
Utica, NY
4/21 to 7/22

*Pending fingerprint clearance through New York State Education Department

<u>FOR ACTION:</u>	Volume LVII	Report No. P – 5
SUBJECT:	Appointments	Security

It is recommended that the following appointments be approved:

Kenneth Henkle
437 Jeanette Drive
Utica, NY 13502

Security Monitor
District-Wide – not to exceed 29 hours per week
Effective: Retroactively on September 2, 2022
Salary: \$17.73 per hour
Education: Graduate of Rockford High School
Experience: Maintenance, Utica Rehab, Utica, NY
1/21 to 8/22

Almin Saric
 1125 Leeds Street
 Utica, NY 13501

Security Monitor*
 District-Wide – not to exceed 29 hours per week
 Effective: September 28, 2022
 Salary: \$17.73 per hour
 Education: Graduate of Proctor High School
 Experience: Security Guard, Securitas, Utica, NY
 10/21 to 5/22

Anthony Pensero
 245 Oxford Road, Apt. 28G
 New Hartford, NY 13413

Security Monitor
 District-Wide – not to exceed 29 hours per week
 Effective: Retroactively on September 12, 2022
 Salary: \$17.73 per hour
 Education: B.A., SUNY Oswego
 Experience: Camera Operator, Adirondack Bank Center
 Utica, NY, 10/15 to present; Security Monitor, Utica City
 School District, Utica, NY
 11/19 to 9/20

Elvin Sanic
 1125 Leeds Street
 Utica, NY 13501

Security Monitor
 District-Wide – not to exceed 29 hours per week
 Effective: Retroactively on September 2, 2022
 Salary: \$17.73 per hour
 Education: Graduate of Proctor High School
 Experience: Driver, Sprinter Van Services, Utica, NY
 1/21 to 8/22

*Pending fingerprint clearance through New York State Education Department

<u>FOR ACTION:</u>	Volume LVII	Report No. P – 5
SUBJECT:	Appointments	Transportation

It is recommended that the following appointments be approved:

Medardo Alcivar
 1203 Oak Street
 Utica, NY 13502

Bus Monitor
 29 hours per week
 Salary: \$16.00 per hour
 Effective: Retroactively on September 15, 2022

Feniker Cuello
 513 Kossuth Avenue, Apt. 1
 Utica, NY 13501

Bus Monitor
 29 hours per week
 Salary: \$16.00 per hour
 Effective: Retroactively on September 19, 2022

Selenny Francisco
 1215 Ash Street
 Utica, NY 13502

Bus Monitor
 29 hours per week
 Salary: \$16.00 per hour
 Effective: Retroactively on September 19, 2022

Gloria Garcia
1232 Kemble Street
Utica, NY 13501

Bus Monitor
29 hours per week
Salary: \$16.00 per hour
Effective: Retroactively on September 6, 2022

Raynia Prado
1224 Ash Street
Utica, NY 13502

Bus Monitor
29 hours per week
Salary: \$16.00 per hour
Effective: Retroactively on September 12, 2022

Ceralla Ruiz
513 Kossuth Avenue, Apt. 2
Utica, NY 13501

Bus Monitor
29 hours per week
Salary: \$16.00 per hour
Effective: Retroactively on September 19, 2022

Deondra Skermont
1107 Ash Street
Utica, NY 13502

Bus Monitor
29 hours per week
Salary: \$16.00 per hour
Effective: Retroactively on September 7, 2022

Liliana Santos
1118 Stark Street
Utica, NY 13502

Bus Monitor
29 hours per week
Salary: \$16.00 per hour
Effective: Retroactively on August 25, 2022

FOR ACTION:

Volume LVII

Report No. P – 5

SUBJECT:

Appointments

Transportation

It is recommended that the following appointments be approved:

Edward Gray
105 Whitesboro Street
Yorkville, NY 13495

Bus Driver
29 hours per week
Salary: \$24.64 per hour
Effective: Retroactively on September 15, 2022

Albania Liriano
2002 Baker Avenue
Utica, NY 13501

Bus Driver
29 hours per week
Salary: \$22.00 per hour
Effective: Retroactively on September 2, 2022

Christopher Mishlanie
5679 Morris Road
Marcy, NY 13403

Bus Driver
29 hours per week
Salary: \$24.64 per hour
Effective: Retroactively on September 13, 2022

Viola Montas
P.O Box 2103
Utica, NY 13503

Bus Driver
29 hours per week
Salary: \$22.00 per hour
Effective: Retroactively on September 19, 2022

Yanire Nunez
83 Emerson Avenue
Utica, NY 13501

Bus Driver
29 hours per week
Salary: \$24.64 per hour
Effective: Retroactively on August 18, 2022

FOR INFORMATION:**Volume LVII****Report No. CSE – 5****SUBJECT:****RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON
SPECIAL EDUCATION**

The Board of Education approves the recommendations of the Committee on Special Education for placement and related services in the Utica City School District and/or other approved programs as follows:

IR = Initial Eligibility Determination
RR = Requested Review
AMN = Amendment No Meeting

TR = Triennial (Re-evaluation) Review
AP = Administrative Placement
PR = Program Review

AR = Annual Review
PR = Program Review
Y = Yes No = No

Student code	Type of Meeting	Handicapping Condition	Recommended Program	Related Services	Results
Committee on Special Education Meeting Date: March 9, 2022					
WM7/17/05GF	AR	LD	ICT/15:1, 10 mo.	N	Chg. 15:1 ELA to ICT ELA
Committee on Special Education Meeting Date: March 11, 2022					
MJ8/23/06GF	AR	LD	ICT/15:1, 10 mo.	N	Chg. RR to ICT/15:1
WJ8/21/05ZM	AR	LD	ICT, 10 mo.	N	Chg. RR to ICT, 10 mo.
Committee on Special Education Meeting Date: March 24, 2022					
BA3/16/06BF	AR	OHI	15:1, 10 mo.	Y	Ongoing
MC7/17/07CM	AR	LD	15:1, 10 mo.	Y	Ongoing
Committee on Special Education Meeting Date: March 30, 2022					
MT12/13/05VF	AR	ED	5:1, 10 mo.	Y	Add Psych. Couns.
Committee on Special Education Meeting Date: April 4, 2022					
BJ3/8/06RM	AR	OHI	12:1:1, 10 mo.	N	Ongoing
Committee on Special Education Meeting Date: April 6, 2022					
BI11/27/07CM	AR	LD	5:1, 10 mo.	N	Ongoing
Committee on Special Education Meeting Date: May 26, 2022					
BD6/24/05JM	AR	LD	12:1:1, 10 mo.	N	Chg. 15:1 to 12:1:1
Committee on Special Education Meeting Date: July 28, 2022					
WD10/25/05TM	AR	OHI	12:1:1, 10 mo.	N	Chg. 3-5 Program to 12:1:1
Committee on Special Education Meeting Date: August 17, 2022					
BA9/18/17GM	PR	SLI	15:1, 12 mo.	Y	Ongoing
WL12/18/16EM	PR	SLI	RS, only	Y	Ongoing
BK11/28/17FM	PR	SLI	15:1, 12 mo.	Y	Ongoing
WA3/3/17GM	PR	OHI	15:1, 12 mo.	Y	Ongoing
WD10/3/17HM	PR	SLI	15:1, 12 mo.	Y	Ongoing
Committee on Special Education Meeting Date: August 18, 2022					
AM12/29/16VM	PR	SLI	15:1, 12 mo.	Y	Ongoing
WA9/10/17ZM	PR	SLI	12:1(3:1), 12 mo.	Y	Ongoing
BH7/18/17AM	PR	SLI	12:1:1, 12 mo.	Y	Ongoing
WM8/18/17CM	PR	AUT	12:1:1, 12 mo.	Y	Ongoing
WV2/1/17RM	PR	ALI	12:1:1, 12 mo.	Y	Ongoing
AV12/8/16HM	PR	SLI	15:1, 12 mo.	Y	Ongoing
AC6/20/17MM	PR	SLI	12:1:1, 12 mo.	Y	Ongoing

FOR INFORMATION:**Volume LVII****Report No. CPSE – 6****SUBJECT:****RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON
PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION**

The Board of Education approves the recommendations of the Committee on Special Education for placement and related services in the Utica City School District and/or other approved programs as follows:

IR = Initial Eligibility Determination
RR = Requested Review
AMN = Amendment No Meeting

TR = Triennial (Re-evaluation) Review
AP = Administrative Placement
PR = Program Review

AR = Annual Review
PR = Program Review
Y = Yes N = No

Student code	Type of Meeting	Handicapping Condition	Recommended Program	Related Services	Results
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Committee on Preschool Special Education Meeting Date: August 22, 2022

BM6/1/18AM	IR	PSWD	SEIS, 10 mo.	Y	New Entry; on 9:1+3 wait list
HWA8/9/19ACM	IR	PSWD	RS, 10 mo.	Y	New Entry
WM7/8/19MM	IR	PSWD	RS, 10 mo.	Y	New Entry
BA5/8/18WF	IR	PSWD	SEIS, 10 mo.	Y	New Entry; on 9:1+3 wait list; order OT & PT evals.
WB9/6/19CM	PR	PSWD	9:1+3, 10 mo.	Y	Add OT 2x30 min./wk.
WA10/22/19AM	PR	PSWD	9:1+3, 10 mo.	Y	Add OT 2x30 min./wk.
HWA4/14/18RF	PR	PSWD	9:1+3, 10 mo.	Y	Ongoing
WE1/30/18SF	PR	PSWD	RS, 10 mo.	Y	Discontinue SEIS 2x60 min./wk.
BJ2/13/18CM	IR	PSWD	SEIS, 10 mo.	Y	New Entry; on 9:1+3 wait list
WE8/21/19RF	IR	PSWD	RS, 10 mo.	Y	New Entry
AJ7/27/19HM	IR	PSWD	SEIS, 10 mo.	Y	New Entry; on 9:1+3 wait list

Committee on Preschool Special Education Meeting Date: September 16, 2022

BE12/14/17RM	PR	PSWD	RS, 10 mo.	Y	Ongoing
WE10/31/19KM	IR	PSWD	SEIS, 10 mo.	Y	New Entry; on 9:1+3 wait list
BN6/9/19EM	IR	PSWD	SEIS, 10 mo.	Y	New Entry; on 9:1+3 wait list
WC9/18/19KM	IR	PSWD	SEIS, 10 mo.	Y	New Entry; on 6:1+3 wait list
HWJ8/15/19EM	IR	PSWD	SEIS, 10 mo.	Y	New Entry; on 9:1+3 wait list
BA9/13/18MAM	PR	PSWD	9:1+3, 10 mo.	Y	Add PT 2x30 min./wk.
AP12/3/17TM	PR	PSWD	SEIS, 10 mo.	Y	Chg. 9:1+3 to SEIS; add to 9:1+3 wait list for nurse; order vision eval.
WH9/3/18GM	AR	PSWD	RS, 10 mo.	Y	Ongoing

Karol Suero
 Monitor-Breakfast and Lunch Program
 District-Wide – not to exceed 29 hours per week
 From: September 22, 2022
 To: November 18, 2022
 Reason: Medical
 Notification Received: September 16, 2022

Debra Secor
 Food Service Worker-Lunch Program
 Proctor High School – 21.25 hours per week
 From: September 7, 2022
 To: October 14, 2022
 Reason: Medical
 Notification Received: September 14, 2022

Yashira Velazquez
 Food Service Worker-Breakfast and Lunch Program
 District-Wide – not to exceed 29 hours per week
 From: September 8, 2022
 To: October 9, 2022
 Reason: Medical
 Notification Received: September 9, 2022

Merisa Sabanovic
 Monitor-Lunch Program
 Kernan Elementary School – 16.25 hours per week
 From: September 8, 2022
 To: October 6, 2022
 Reason: Medical
 Notification Received: September 12, 2022

FOR INFORMATION:**Volume LVII****Report No. P – 6****SUBJECT:****Unpaid Leave of Absence****Food Service/Monitor**

It is recommended that the following unpaid leave of absence be accepted:

Minka Kudic
 Monitor-Breakfast and Lunch Program
 District-Wide – not to exceed 29 hours per week
 From: September 15, 2022
 To: October 12, 2022
 Reason: Medical
 Notification Received: September 13, 2022

FOR INFORMATION:**Volume LVII****Report No. P – 6****SUBJECT:****Unpaid Leave of Absence****Teacher Assistant**

It is recommended that the following unpaid leave of absence be accepted:

Donia Selmen
 Teacher Assistant – Special Education
 General Herkimer Elementary School
 From: September 6, 2022
 To: September 28, 2022
 Reason: Personal
 Notification Received: August 15, 2022

Maria Paladino-Brown

Teacher Assistant
 Jefferson Elementary School
 Effective: September 7, 2022
 Reason: Personal
 Notification Received: September 7, 2022

FOR INFORMATION:

Volume LVII

Report No. P – 6

SUBJECT:

Resignations

Teacher Assistant

It is recommended that the following resignations be accepted:

Berry Scheening

Teacher Assistant – Special Education
 Jones Elementary School
 Effective: August 30, 2022
 Reason: Personal
 Notification Received: August 31, 2022

Kimberly Smith

Teacher Assistant – Special Education
 Jefferson Elementary School
 Effective: September 1, 2022
 Reason: Accepted position outside the
 Utica City School District
 Notification Received: August 12, 2022

FOR INFORMATION:

Volume LVII

Report No. P - 6

SUBJECT:

Resignation

Extra-Curricular

It is recommended that the following resignation be accepted:

Jennelle Fallon

Drama Club Advisor
 Kennedy Middle School
 Effective: September 13, 2022

Mr. Cardillo made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda; seconded by Mr. Testa.

There being no further discussion; **motion carried 7-0.**

THIS CONCLUDED THE CONSENT AGENDA.

FOR ACTION:

Volume LVII

Report No. P – 5

SUBJECT:

Retirement

Custodial

It is recommended that the following retirement be accepted:

Brian Toussaint

Steamfitter
 School Shop
 Effective: June 17, 2023
 Years of Service: 18

Moved by Mr. Cardillo and seconded by Mrs. Padula.

Mr. Testa: I just want to acknowledge a fellow worker for the school district, Brian Toussaint. I've known him for over 20 years. He's been with the district longer than what it actually says here. He was the guy that basically made sure people had heat in the rooms and air condition. Throughout the years, plenty of times in snowstorms and stuff like that he got in and made sure people were taken care of. Congratulations Brian, happy retirement.

There being no further discussion; **motion carried 7-0.**

FOR ACTION:**Volume LVI****Report No. P – 5****SUBJECT:****Appointments****Homebound Instruction**

It is recommended that the following appointments be approved:

Kevin Ammann	Lisa McClean-Turner
Carissa Asaro	David Schulz
Shannon Ciccone	Deanna Simon
Donald Dawes	Frederick M. Stellato
Nathan DeBan	Michelle Walrath
Jessica Gee	Mike Winkler
Jacqueline Jackson	

Secondary Instruction – Minimum two (2) hours per day

Elementary Instruction – Minimum one (1) hour per day

Certified Instructors – \$28.00 per hour

Non-Certified Instructors – \$15.00 per hour

Moved by Mr. Cardillo and seconded by Mrs. Padula.

There being no further discussion; **motion carried 6-0 (Mr. Dawes – Abstain).**

FOR INFORMATION:**Volume LVII****Report No. P – 6****SUBJECT:****Resignation**

It is recommended that the following resignation be accepted:

Michael Ferraro

COVID Coordinator

Effective: September 1, 2022

Notification Received: August 25, 2022

Moved by Mr. Dawes and seconded by Mr. Testa.

President Hobika, Jr.: I would like to have this tabled until our Special Meeting. The reason for that is I would like to know exactly what's happened that there was a resignation offered. That's in tandem with the item on page 33. I'm looking for a motion to table and I'm looking for a second.

Mr. Paul made a motion to table the item; seconded by Mrs. Padula.

There being no further discussion; **motion carried 7-0.**

FOR INFORMATION:**Volume LVII****Report No. P – 6****SUBJECT:****COVID-19 Coordinator Appointment****TABLED**

It is recommended that the following appointment be accepted:

Vincent Perrotta

COVID-19 Coordinator

Effective: September 1, 2022

Notification Received: August 29, 2022

Mr. Dawes: Point of order, Joe on resignation.

President Hobika, Jr.: Yes sir.

Mr. Dawes: This was not a Motion for Action; it was a Motion for Information.

President Hobika, Jr.: It was a Motion to table.

Mr. Dawes: No, what you brought forth it was For Information, it wasn't For Action, if you read the top of the page.

Mr. Gerace: I think the reason for that is the Board doesn't have to accept the resignation or act on it. If a person resigns, they resign.

Mr. Dawes: That's what I'm saying, we don't have act on this.

President Hobika, Jr.: Oh, ok then why put it in the Report?

Mr. Gerace: Just to notify the Board that there was a resignation from of the person from that particular position.

President Hobika, Jr.: Ok. I would like him present at the next Board Meeting so that we can have a discussion. I'm assuming that the Board can take action on...

Mr. Gerace: You can table page 33.

Mr. Paul made a motion to table the bottom of page 33.

President Hobika, Jr.: First we need a motion to put it out there.

Mr. Paul: Out where?

President Hobika, Jr.: On the floor.

Mr. Gerace: It's Robert's Rule, you need to have a motion and a second to place it on the floor; then a motion to table it afterwards.

Mr. Paul made a motion to place the action on the floor; seconded by Mrs. Padula.

Mrs. Knoop made a motion to table the action (COVID-19 Coordinator Appointment); seconded by Mrs. Padula.

There being no further discussion; **motion carried 7-0.**

THIS CONCLUDED THE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

Reports of Special Committees**BOCES Report – Joseph H. Hobika, Jr.**

President Hobika, Jr. reported, "No BOCES Report at this time."

Audit/Finance/Grant/Insurance Committee – Donald Dawes/Joseph Hobika, Jr./Tennille Knoop

President Hobika, Jr. reported, "We met yesterday, and we were examining the report of our Internal Auditor that was produced last year. We had some questions about process and procedure and there were a few other issues that arose. We will be having another meeting very soon. Tennille did you look into that calendar, or did you not get a chance to do that, the Budget Calendar?"

Mrs. Tennille: I did not, and I was looking, but I didn't get a chance to explore it more. Are the workshops not – that's what we were looking for.

President Hobika, Jr.: Yes, they were in the Budget Calendar that I provided. I apologize for reverting, but we have the right Don to revisit any issue in the Superintendent's Report, right?

Mr. Gerace: If it's necessary, sure.

President Hobika, Jr.: Ok, because there's an issue with the Budget Calendar.

Mr. Gerace: There wouldn't be workshops in the Budget Calendar per say. It could be something that the Board wants in the Calendar, but it's not required; let's put it that way.

President Hobika, Jr.: I know there's one in February, but we need to deal with some of these other issues as the budget is being developed. Is this Budget Calendar published and then we live but it, or can it be a living document.

Mr. Karam: It can be a living document, but you would have to adjust it after you approve it.

President Hobika, Jr.: Ok, so it's been approved, and we have to vote on it again. Ok, that's fine.

Mr. Karam: It would have to be a living document because in January when the Governor comes out with her proposal for state aid in her budget, that's the piece that we're waiting for so that you know where we stand.

President Hobika, Jr.: Ok. There will be another meeting of the Audit and Finance very soon to discuss things.

Capital Projects/Buildings & Grounds/Health & Safety Committee – Danielle Padula/Donald Dawes/David Testa

Mr. Dawes reported, "We haven't met, we are planning a meeting soon."

Channel 3//Communications/Fine Arts – Tennille Knoop/David Testa/Danielle Padula

Mrs. Knoop reported, "We are working on setting up committee members right now to come and give us some feedback, so we are setting that up right now. We will be setting up a meeting as soon as we get those people on board."

Policy Committee – Tennille Knoop/Robert Cardillo/Joseph Hobika, Jr.

President Hobika, Jr. reported, "I thought that I had asked the clerk to put together some books of the districts policies for every Board Member. You did get them, oh good. We're going to be having a meeting very soon."

Diversity/Community Outreach – Danielle Padula/James Paul/Robert Cardillo

Mrs. Padula reported, "We are working on gathering our committee for that. I spoke to Mr. Falchi – when we went around to the elementary schools and some of the secondary schools, they had calendars of stuff going on so we didn't want to interfere with too much so we are waiting to get all of the calendars in the schools so that we can plan our events. If anyone wants to join the committee, we will be meeting the week before the Board Meeting in October."

Personnel/Instruction & Professional Development – Joseph Hobika, Jr./Tennille Knoop/James Paul

President Hobika, Jr. reported, "We are going to be meeting to discuss the RFQ and hopefully get that in position for adoption and publication. Anybody is invited to provide me with comments. I know that you did Mr. Cardillo, it was a very good one."

Citizen Advisory/Code of Conduct – James Paul/Danielle Padula/Robert Cardillo

Mr. Paul reported, "We haven't met, but we will get something to you for the October Meeting."

President Hobika, Jr.: Excellent.

Financial Report

Internal Auditor Report – Paris Rich, Internal Auditor

Mr. Rich reported, "First I would like to thank the Board for renewing me. At this time, as usual I audit every payroll. I finished and there weren't any problems. I am currently working on the 2021-2022 Risk Assessment. I think next time, probably at the Audit and Finance, maybe if not October then November probably we will see our External Auditors with a report. Extra classrooms clubs just got started. There are like 3, but I assume that will grow as time goes on."

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Cardillo made a motion to approve the following minutes; seconded by Mrs. Padula.

- August 23, 2022 – Special Meeting
- August 23, 2022 – Regular Meeting

There being no further discussion; **motion carried 7-0.**

**Continuing Business
(None)**

New Business

Mr. Cardillo: I just have one thing. I would just like to make our folks in the district aware of something that 2 young ladies from the Amcore Program – People First (the Utica Housing Authority). They brought socks around to several of the schools. I know some of the principals know about that and they are 2 young girls that grew up in the projects and they are working now at the MHA which is called People First. I just think that we let some of this stuff go by the wayside. I just think that's a really sweet thing that they did. Just like to give them their recognition.

Mrs. Padula: Very sweet.

Mr. Cardillo: And of course I had their names written down and I don't have that sheet of paper.

Mrs. Knoop: I have something. Our phone systems. Before I believe it was last year, you used to be able to call in. There was a directory for the phones – press 2 for the nurse, press this for attendance. That was removed. Now every phone call that comes to the school has to come through the secretary. That means if you're a parent trying to get into the school and the nurse calls me, I still have to go through the secretary and wait on hold to be transferred. I know this was something that the Board put into place a year or two back. I think it's put way too much on the secretary and it's not conducive for parents or anybody looking to get in and looking to streamline those phone calls. If this is something that we can reimplement so that the schools can have their directory back, that would be helpful.

President Hobika, Jr.: The Board put that in place?

Mrs. Knoop: Yes.

Mr. Karam: I don't remember that.

President Hobika, Jr.: I can't even work a directory in my office.

Mrs. Padula: I'm not sure that the Board put it in place, but it was a request of a Board Member to have.

Mr. Dawes: To be honest with you, I think what happened was when we were redoing the schools and we put in the new phone systems, this is the way it was set up to be done.

Mrs. Padula: We had an issue last year in the beginning of September and everything was changed over, it goes through the secretary unless the nurse itself or the school publishes the phone number. If you call the school now, it rings to the secretary. All the directories are gone. It used to say call this number for Durham, press 1 for the district garage, 2 for the nurse, 3 for the secretary. It was alleviated last September.

President Hobika, Jr.: So, we can't have a directory?

Mrs. Padula: No we can.

Mrs. Knoop: We can. It was disabled and they are no longer allowed to use it.

President Hobika, Jr.: Can I ask a question. Isn't it better to have a person answer the phone?

Mrs. Knoop: Yes, but if you're calling the nurse, if you want to speak to attendance because your kid is going to be late or sick you press 2 and then you get that person.

Mrs. Padula: You don't always get the secretary.

President Hobika, Jr.: I'm just asking the question. So I call in and if I say I would like to talk to the nurse and the secretary answers the phone, that's great. But let's say I really want to talk to somebody, and you get into some of these directories and it's like hit one if it's this, 2 if it's that and 17 if it's this. You're going on and then ultimately you finally get to the point where you have to pick a number to get to let's say the secretary.

Mrs. Padula: Until the nurse leaves you a voice mail that they have your child in the office, and you call the school, and the secretary doesn't answer because they are dealing with a parent.

President Hobika, Jr.: Don't they have a direct dial number like I'm just asking. Let's say it's 368-609 whatever that's the nurse's number at the school, you can't call the nurse directly?

Mrs. Padula: If the school advertises the nurse's direct line. Some schools do not.

President Hobika, Jr.: Is that the principal's choice or somebody else's?

Mrs. Knoop: No, it's all schools. We spoke to the principals and it's all schools.

Mr. Dawes: Yes, I know it's all schools.

President Hobika, Jr.: What do the principals want?

Mrs. Knoop: The principals said the same thing, their secretaries are so bogged down with answering the phones and it's a parent and it's this and they are transferring. It's a lot of wasted time is spent.

Mrs. Padula; And busy lines. If they're tied up transferring, it doesn't ring.

President Hobika, Jr.: We have voice mail at every extension, right?

Mrs. Knoop: But then you have the secretary now has to go back and it usually doesn't happen until the end of the day to get those.

President Hobika, Jr.: My point is do we need to issue a directive by motion to have phone directories.

Mrs. Padula: Maybe Mr. Ferraro can look into it.

Mr. Karam: No, if you want them, we'll put them in.

Mrs. Padula: It shouldn't have been taken out.

Mr. Dawes: I think we have to look into this a little bit more. There was a reason.

Mrs. Knoop: The reason was a person called and couldn't get through that day and it was the first day of school and the person was upset and it eliminated everything.

Mr. Dawes: No. That's not the reason.

Mrs. Knoop: Yes.

Mr. Dawes: The reason was a sound reason and I think it had to do with the fact that if you called in and you hit for the nurse and you didn't get the nurse, the way it worked was it had to go back and redial the school. If you call and get the secretary and there's always someone going to answer on the secretary's phone. It may not be the secretary, it might be somebody filling in, but there is always someone there. At least you get to talk to a person, and you can get your number directed to where it has to go. Let's say they say that the nurse is out for the day at

least you talked to somebody. If I'm not mistaken, I think that's why it was put in the way it was. I remember Terry explaining it to me and to be honest right now I wouldn't swear to it, that seems to ring a bell in my head.

President Hobika, Jr.: Let's try it the way that you want with the directory.

Mrs. Padula: Even if it's the secretary and the nurse.

President Hobika, Jr.: Even if it's just one or two or three different numbers, lets try it that way and see how it works. If we get a lot of complaints because people aren't getting to talk to a person we can always go back and the person that changed it all isn't here anymore anyways, so we are good to go.

Mrs. Padula: Thank you.

Mrs. Knoop: Sounds good. Thank you.

**Communication
(None)**

Adjournment

Mr. Testa made a motion to adjourn the September 27, 2022 Regular Meeting; seconded by Mrs. Padula.

There being no further discussion; **motion carried 7-0.**

The Regular Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully transcribed and submitted,

DEBORAH L. VENNERO
Board Recorder