

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE UNITY POINT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Thursday, April 14, 2016, 6:00 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Unity Point Board of Education was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by the president pro-tempore, Suzanne Sanders, with the following members present: Rick Asaturian, Craig Davis, Eric Jung, D. W. Presley, Suzanne Sanders, and Tom Upton. Others present were Lori James-Gross, Bill Laser, Deb Gurley, Kerry Glenn, Tabitha Nolen, Lori Spillman, Tracy Laughard, Megan Geelan, Jeremy Marshall, Nicole Stoodley, and Chris Midden.

Eric Jung made the motion, seconded by Rick Asaturian to approve the Agenda. Motion carried 6-0 with all voting yea.

Rick Asaturian made the motion, seconded by D. W. Presley to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2016 regular meeting, copy attached. Motion carried 4-0-2 with votes as follows: Asaturian-yea, Jung-yea, Presley-yea, Sanders-yea, Davis-abstain, Upton-abstain,

Suzanne Sanders recognized guests and visitors that were present.

D. W. Presley made the motion, seconded by Rick Asaturian to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried 6-0 with all voting yea.

Lori James-Gross indicated correspondence was received from James Lockhart expressing appreciation to the Board for rescinding his resignation letter previously submitted; correspondence was received from Crystal Phillips for non-resident pupils of full-time staff to attend Unity Point School; letters of resignation were received from Tim Ward as assistant softball coach; Jermaine Gill as assistant baseball coach; Brett Pinnon as 5th/6th and 7th/8th boys basketball coach; Michael Blair as bus driver; and Melissa Pickens as junior high math teacher effective end of the 2015-16 school year; a retirement request was received from Dan Walker as custodian effective July 1, 2016 while remaining employed as a bus driver; and Unity Point received compliance recognition following a recent inspection from Donna Boros, Regional Superintendent of Schools.

D. W. Presley made the motion, seconded by Tom Upton to accept the application for nonresident pupil of full-time employee, Crystal Phillips; and accept letters of resignation and retirement as submitted. Motion carried 6-0 with all voting yea.

Lori James-Gross provided information regarding Project Achieve which focuses on student assessments in testing. Unity Point is one of three schools selected in Illinois which includes a \$5000 grant. Administration and a board member will work with IASB regarding this grant. Three schools each from New York and Washington will also participate.

Craig Davis made the motion, seconded by Rick Asaturian to approve the updated Board Policy: Section 6 per recommendation from Lori James-Gross. Motion carried 6-0 with all voting yea.

Bill Laser presented the Quarterly Financial Report. Lori James-Gross discussed the state budget situation. Local schools are indicating they may not open for school in August 2016 if there is no State budget approved. Unity Point does not have enough financial reserves to begin school in August 2016. There will be a meeting of local Districts on April 26, 2016 to discuss a county wide sales tax and the potential to not open school for the 2016-2017 school year. Legislation is being considered to change the General State Aid formula.

Lori James-Gross presented current enrollment figures, per attached; a 2016-17 school year registration update; and indicated there were no suspensions to report. Kerry Glenn presented recent Unity Point honors and awards per attached.

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D. W. Presley made a motion, seconded by Rick Asaturian to adjourn the Board for an Executive Session to consider information regarding the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body; to consider collective negotiating matters with the UPEA and to consider fulfillment of a board vacancy at 6:35 p.m. Motion carried 6-0 with all voting yea.

Tom Upton departed at 6:50 p.m.

Rick Asaturian made the motion, seconded by Eric Jung to resume regular session at 7:37 p.m. Motion carried 5-0 with all voting yea.

D. W. Presley made the motion, seconded by Eric Jung to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2016, Executive Session meeting, copy attached. Motion carried 5-0 with all voting yea.

D. W. Presley made the motion, seconded by Suzanne Sanders to approve the Early Retirement Option request by Cheryl Rister effective end of the 2015-16 school year. Motion carried 5-0 with all voting yea.

It was the consensus of the Board to appoint a board member to fill the vacancy and approve a tentative agreement of contract negotiations with UPEA at the regular May 12, 2016 meeting.

D. W. Presley made the motion, seconded by Craig Davis to grant tenure to C. J. Buss, 7/8 Social Studies Teacher for the 2016-17 school year. Motion carried 5-0 with all voting yea.

Rick Asaturian made the motion, seconded by D. W. Presley to reemploy Kellie Haak – 1st grade, Sarah Hagler – 1st grade and Kristen Grimmer – 2nd grade as 3rd year full time non-tenured teachers for the 2016-17 school year; to reemploy Penny Burnside – Multiage, Kerri Clayton – 5/6 Math, Stephanie Feeman – 3rd grade, Dulce Garcia – Kindergarten, and Lynn Graves – Resource as 2nd year full time non-tenured teachers for the 2016-17 school year; and reemploy Tonya Chapman – K-3 Music and Brenda Jones – Administrative Assistant as part time certified staff for the 2016-17 school year. Motion carried 5-0 with all voting yea.

D. W. Presley made the motion, seconded by Eric Jung to approve the following voluntary and involuntary transfers for the 2016-17 school year: Shae Gule – from K-8 Technology to 7/8 ELA; Kerri Clayton from 5/6 Math to K-8 Technology; Lynn Graves from 7/8 Resource to 3/4 Resource; and James Lockhart as being rehired and transferred from 3/4 Resource to K-2 Resource. Motion carried 5-0 with all voting yea.

D. W. Presley made the motion, seconded by Rick Asaturian to approve the recommendation of the administration to employ Jeremy Marshall as 7/8 Resource; Nicole Stoodley as 7/8 Science Teacher; Tracy Laughard as Art Teacher; Megan Geelan as Pre-Kindergarten Teacher; Tabitha Nolen as K-8 Library/Media Specialist; and Lynette Winters as Head Cheerleading Coach for the 2016-2017 school year. Motion carried 5-0 with all voting yea.

Chris Midden of the UPEA expressed appreciated cooperation with the Board during recent contract negotiations.

Lori James-Gross indicated that graduation will be held on May 19, 2016 per attached student roster and a retirement open house will be held on June 11, 2016 at Rustle Hill Winery.

Eric Jung made the motion, seconded by Rick Asaturian to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Motion carried 5-0 with all voting yea.