

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
UTICA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING – NOVEMBER 14, 2022 – 9:00 A.M.
Administration Building – 929 York Street – Kernan School**

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Robert Cardillo, James Paul

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Michele Albanese, Haylee Lallier, Paris Rich
Others – Mr. Mike Rossi, External Auditor

President Hobika, Jr. called the Special Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Mrs. Kathy Hughes, Board Clerk conducted Roll Call. All members of the Board of Education were present with the exception of Mr. Robert Cardillo and Mr. James Paul.

Discussion

- **Adoption of a Resolution allowing any members of the Board who is not a member of the Audit/Finance/Grant/Insurance Committee Meeting to attend an Audit Committee Meeting.**

President Hobika, Jr.: There is a proposed Resolution. Can I have a motion to adopt that.

- **Mrs. Knoop made a motion to authorize the Board of the Utica City School District to adopt a Resolution allowing any members of the Board who is not a member of the Audit Meeting to attend an Audit Committee Meeting. Whereas the Board desires to allow all members of the Board who are not members of the Audit Committee to attend the Audit Committee Meeting of November 14, 2022, at 9:05 a.m. including any Executive Session. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Padula.**

Mr. Dawes: Do you need to check with Don Gerace? I always thought that any member of the Board could attend any committee meeting.

President Hobika, Jr.: Once you get over 3 members, then you get to 4, then it would be open to the Public Officers Law in an open meeting. That's why we are adopting this because for other members because we are going to be voting on this tomorrow. We can go over this in detail today for anyone that's interested.

Mr. Testa: That's the question I had basically because on the Common Council all of them would come. Any Board Member would come.

Mr. Dawes: That's fine. My understanding was as long as we met and weren't voting on anything, we could always meet with as many members of the Board that wanted to come.

There being no further discussion, **motion carried 5-0.**

Mrs. Knoop made a motion to enter into Executive Session; seconded by Mrs. Padula.

President Hobika, Jr.: The purpose is to discuss the Audit.

Mr. Dawes: Why do we have to go into Executive Session?

President Hobika, Jr.: So that the public cannot walk in and participate. That's why I'm calling for Executive Session.

Mr. Dawes: We normally have the public here for meetings, not committee meetings.

President Hobika, Jr.: Again, we are having more than just 3 people on the Board which will allow us to handle it this way because we have 5 of the Board Members, possibly 6 if Mr. Paul shows up. The information we will be discussing will be more suited for Executive Session and then if we would be obviously discussing it tomorrow on the floor, or not. But I would like to ask questions and sometimes they're related to employees' contractual issues and things like that. That's why we're better off in Executive Session.

Mr. Testa: We aren't voting on them today?

President Hobika, Jr.: We are not voting on anything. We are voting tomorrow, not today. I just wanted to give everybody the opportunity to be here and ask questions with the External Auditor. And that's what our attorney recommended, so...

Mr. Dawes: Which attorney?

President Hobika, Jr.: Mr. Shields.

Mrs. Padula made a motion to go into Executive Session, seconded by Mrs. Knoop.

There being no further discussion; **motion carried 4-0 (Mr. Dawes – Abstain).**

The Board of Education entered into Executive Session at 9:13 a.m.

President Hobika, Jr.: What is your reason for abstaining.

Mr. Dawes: My reason for abstaining is I don't think it's necessary. For 20 years we've never done this way.

President Hobika, Jr.: I won't respond to that but there's always a time to do it right.

Mrs. Padula made a motion to exit Executive Session; seconded by Mr. Testa.

The Board of Education exited Executive Session at 10:55 a.m.

Mrs. Knoop made a motion to adjourn the Special Meeting of November 14, 2022. This motion was seconded by Mr. Testa.

Respectfully transcribed and submitted,

DEBORAH L. VENNERO
BOARD RECORDER