

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
UTICA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL MEETING – TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2022 – 5:00 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, Don Gerace, Esq., Kathy Hughes

President Hobika, Jr. called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Board Clerk Kathy Hughes conducted roll call. All members of the Board of Education were present.

Mr. Paul commented, "First of all I want to welcome everybody here. Just a sad note here, we lost a very valued community member this past weekend with Patrick Johnson. A gentleman I've known a very long time and very active in the community, always fought for what's right. He will be missed. He's touched a lot of folks and a part of this district as well with some of the training that he's done. I just wanted to say my condolences to the family and friends. He will be missed. Thanks for the time, Joe."

President Hobika, Jr.: I knew Patrick all the way through high school. I used to love to have discussions with him. He always enlightened me on something I hadn't thought about. I will miss him, and I know the community will. Let's bow our heads for a second.

Mr. Paul: I would like to make a motion. **I would a motion to appoint Ferrara Fiorenza, PC, Special Legal Counsel to the school district. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Knoop.**

President Hobika, Jr.: Any discussion?

Mr. Dawes: I have a question. Why are we looking to get a special, we have a legal counsel that we keep on retainer. So, we are going to spend more money on why?

President Hobika, Jr.: I'm not sure if I can answer that on the floor.

Mr. Dawes: I'd like an answer before we vote on it.

President Hobika, Jr.: Would you excuse me a second so I can confer with Mr. Gerace.

Mr. Gerace: Perhaps the Board should go into Executive Session since there is an Executive Session listed on the agenda.

President Hobika, Jr.: Ok, that's fine. I need a motion to go into Executive Session.

Mr. Cardillo made a motion to go into Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Testa.

There being no further discussion, the Board entered into Executive Session at 5:05 p.m.

Mr. Cardillo made a motion to come out of Executive Session; seconded by Mrs. Knoop.

Board exited Executive Session at 5:15 p.m.

October 18, 2022 – 5:00 p.m.

Special Meeting

President Hobika, Jr.: There's a motion on the floor, any further discussion? All in favor.

Mr. Dawes: I'd like to have a voice vote.

President Hobika, Jr.: Absolutely. Roll call Mrs. Hughes.

Mrs. Hughes conducted the voice vote.

Mr. Cardillo	No
Mr. Dawes	No
Mr. Hobika, Jr.	Yes
Mrs. Knoop	Yes
Mrs. Padula	Yes
Mr. Paul	Yes
Mr. Testa	No

President Hobika, Jr.: The ayes have it right?

Mrs. Hughes: Yes.

Mr. Cardillo made a motion to enter into Executive Session, seconded by Mrs. Padula.

President Hobika, Jr.: All in favor?

Mr. Dawes: No.

President Hobika, Jr.: You want a roll call on that?

Mr. Dawes: Sure.

Mrs. Hughes conducted the voice vote.

Mr. Cardillo	No
Mr. Dawes	No
Mr. Hobika, Jr.	Yes
Mrs. Knoop	Yes
Mrs. Padula	Yes
Mr. Paul	Yes
Mr. Testa	No

Mr. Dawes: It is customary that you say what we are going into Executive Session for.

President Hobika, Jr.: We will be discussing **Personnel Matters, Contracts, and Litigation.**

The Board of Education entered into Executive Session 5:40 p.m.

Mrs. Padula made a motion to exit Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Paul.

The Board of Education exited Executive Session at 6:00 p.m.

President Hobika, Jr.: I need a motion for Resolution 3.

Mr. Paul: I would like to make a motion to place an employee who was discussed by the Board of Education in Executive Session on paid Administrative Leave pending the completion of an independent investigation. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Knoop.

There being no further discussion; **motion carried 4-2.**

Mrs. Hughes conducted a voice vote:

Mr. Cardillo	No
Mr. Dawes	Excused from the meeting due to illness.
Mr. Hobika, Jr.	Yes
Mrs. Knoop	Yes
Mrs. Padula	Yes
Mr. Paul	Yes
Mr. Testa	No

Mrs. Hughes: The ayes have it.

President Hobika, Jr.: We need another motion for Resolution 4.

Mrs. Knoop made a motion to appoint Mr. Brian Nolan as Acting Superintendent of Schools. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Padula.

There being no further discussion; **motion carried 4-2 Mr. Cardillo – No/Mr. Testa – No).**

Mr. Testa made a motion to adjourn the Special Meeting; seconded by Mrs. Padula.

There being no further discussion; motion carried 4-2.

The Special Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully transcribed and submitted:

DEBORAH VENNERO
Board Recorder