

**Meet the Candidates, June 1, 2020**

<b>NW</b>	<b>Nicole Wolfe, Superintendent</b>	<b>AM</b>	<b>Andre Mathis, OPA President</b>
<b>JO</b>	<b>Joseph Ozvold, Board Member</b>	<b>KM</b>	<b>Kathy Marecek, BOE Candidate</b>
<b>RF</b>	<b>Roger Failing, Community Member</b>	<b>LT</b>	<b>Lowell Taylor, Board Member</b>

NW Ok. So the time is 6:00 pm and this would be our annual Meet the Candidates Event and so tonight we have from 6:00 to 6:30 we have Andre Mathis here as our facilitator/moderator of the event and we have two candidates. We have Joe Ozvold over here and a Kathy Marecek over here. We do have a set of scripted questions that are going to be asked and we have Pamela Riddleberger in the back who is going to be keeping time. So I am going to turn it over to Andre to get things started.

AM Good Evening. Welcome to the event, hosted by the Endicott Teachers' Association, the UE PTA and the Union-Endicott Maintenance Workers Association. Tonight, each candidate will have three minutes for an opening response and this will be followed for a couple of questions which each candidate will have two minutes to respond to each question and an additional two minutes to follow up and rebuttal if needed. Based on the drawing that was done earlier today, Mrs. Marecek, you will go first.

KM I believe in the mission of the Union-Endicott school district to develop responsible, self-directed and life long learners. I am seeking a seat on the UE Board of Education for a few reasons. When I was first elected in 2007, I ran to become more involved and to give back to the school community. My three children graduated from UE and had the benefit of an excellent education, which provided them with many opportunities to broaden their horizons. Years later, not much has changed and I still feel the same way. I now have two grandchildren that attend school in the district. So I have a vested interest in the success of our schools and the quality of their education. I believe that the district continues to need to be fiscally responsible with all stakeholders providing the best education possible for our students. We need to be continuously learning, researching and striving for excellence. I'm qualified to be a UE Board Member because I have experience being previously elected for two terms. My husband and I did move to Florida for year in late 2016, thinking that we were ready to transition into pre-retirement. We came back because we missed our family and friends. We did not feel the same sense of community or connection that we had with Endicott. I guess hindsight is always 20/20. During the time that I was on the board, we dealt with many difficult issues including cuts to the State budget, the GAP elimination assessment, staff layoffs and floods. I was the alternate member for the Broome-Tioga BOCES Health Consortium and a member of the BAT Team for Facilities. I am currently a member of the BAT Team for Policy and a member of the Board of Directors of the Glenpark Homeowners Association. I feel that I was an asset when I was on the Board. I am level-headed, fair, work and collaborate well with others and can objectively look at all sides of an issue. We may not always agree on an issue, but decisions are always made with the best interests of our students. In addition, I have worked in health care for nearly 40 years and have had to handle many difficult situations while staying focused and engaged. If elected, I can jump right back in. There is no learning curve for me. I know how both the district and the board operate. I have also developed many valuable relationships with the board members, staff, parents and

community members. In regard to the budget, I do support the 2020-2021 budget. The district, namely our administration who collaborate with their staff have done an excellent job in managing the district's finances, including the budget itself, the reserve, capital projects, an emergencies that have arisen. We should all be proud of their efforts. Balancing the needs of the district and being fair to the taxpayers, and I am one of them, is always challenging. Endicott is an extraordinary community and has always supported the district and always comes together in tough times. I am certain that the 2020-2021 will again be well supported. In conclusion, I know that I can make a positive impact as a Board of Education Member and welcome the opportunity to again serve the district and community. Those who have worked with me in the past know what I bring to the table. I would greatly appreciate your support in the June 9<sup>th</sup> election. So please remember to mail in your ballots.

JO Thank you Andre. Well first off I would like to thank everyone who put this together. The maintenance workers, PTA, ETA. I would like to thank Andre for agreeing to moderate this. So, what are my priorities? Why am I running? First I am going to use the same two concepts that I have always used. I am concerned. The first job of any school district is the safety of students, staff and visitors. That's the first job. It is not education. Also, my children graduated in the middle 90s and I want to maintain the same programs that were available to them for our students that are here today. I enjoy my service to the community on the Board of Education. I have been on for 17 years. I have been a resident of Union-Endicott district for 44 continuous years and I have the knowledge, skills and leadership needed to be an effective innovator and problem solver. I am also a teacher at BCC and I get to see our student who graduate from UE. Because on that first day of class I always ask who graduated from UE. We have fantastic students that come out of this district. They are skilled, they are life-long learners and they solve problems. I teach robotics there and that is not something that comes natural. I teach C programming, a language that is totally different language. It is like learning Spanish or French. So I am proud to see the output of our school district here. Thank you.

AM Ok. We will not begin the question portion. Mr. Ozvold, what do you consider to be the main issue facing UE school district and how would you deal with it? You have two minutes to respond.

JO Ok. I think this is an easy one It's the COVID crisis. This is a game changer. It is unprecedented. We have never seen anything like this before. We have never sent our students home. We have never educated them on-line or over the internet. This has been a very challenging time. If you go back to September, the issues then were the fact that they closed the Boys & Girls Club. And that was a disaster for us. We had to help to put that back together, and then we had the crisis out in front of the high school where we lost power for three days, and I watched Toby fix that. So, and now we end up with COVID. The interesting thing about COVID... I asked to sit in on the meetings with the administrators when they called the Department of Health. There were presentations on COVID. We watched that and I wanted to make sure that we were going to be prepared. Our administrators here did an excellent job. Toby, Pamela, Jenn Kazmark was there. Nicole was there. They really had us prepared. I really feel we were one of the best prepared school districts in the area and we were ready to go. I also predicted early that

we would be shutting down the school district and Toby just shook his head. I said the end of March, but we ended up shutting down March 18<sup>th</sup>. I also told my students on March 2<sup>nd</sup> in class that we are going to be shut down before the end of March. I restructured the course because it was an in-class course and I aligned it so we were ready for the shut-down.

AM Mrs. Marecek. What do you consider to be the main issue facing UE school district and how would you deal with it?

KM I think that we are all on the same page. Without a doubt, and I think everyone would agree, is that the main issue of the district is how we manage in this new world of COVID 19. The virus is not going away any time soon. I believe that the issues revolve around safety, the educational process and the budget. The question poses, how can I handle it? Well, that is a good question. Because I don't think anyone really has a good handle on it. There are more questions than answers at this time and we haven't received much guidance from the State. So what does the fall even look like? This is going to take a huge collaborative effort for all stakeholders and then need to be involved in the decision making process. And I am sure that this has been going on for a while. In terms of safety. How do we.. do we test all of our students and staff for COVID? How do we insure consistent hand hygiene? How can social distancing work in Kindergarten up through high school? And how do we meticulously sanitize our facilities because this will be imperative to minimize the risk of the virus transmission. As far as the educational process goes, I do think that there will be some families who will be home-schooling their children this fall. Will distance learning continue in some form? I believe that it probably will. But I know that distance learning can never replace the face to face learning with a teacher. Younger students especially need socialization to build a foundation on how to interact with others. Will the curriculum need to be modified? How do we further support teachers and students to maximize learning in such a tough time? Will there be specials and extra-curriculars? Again, more questions than answers. And lastly the budget. Assuming that this budget does pass, what will happen if Governor Cuomo takes back funding? We will need to have scenarios in place in the event that this occurs. So how do we best use our resources and what are the priorities to maximize student learning and achievement? The district certainly does not work in a vacuum. It is going to take a lot of hard work and effort to handle these challenges. There will be many opinions on what needs to be done and what is right. But we need to practice patience and understanding in order to get everyone through this pandemic.

AM Thank you. Follow-up?

JO I just wanted to say that unfortunately the School Board, Superintendent, everyone sitting here has very little to say in what happens. It is all being dictated out of State. We even have to submit our graduation plans to the County, who then submits it to the State for approval. We have no say in what we are going to do unfortunately.

AM So you each both mentioned how the COVID pandemic is one of the issues facing our district and that ties into our second question, and since you both talked about that I will form a new question, and you mentioned Mrs. Marecek what the future of education will

look like. So I will pose that question to both of you. What do you think the future of education will look like and how do you think that will impact the district overall?

KM Well, I have been reading a lot about what is going on around the country and it seems that many districts are planning on doing some type of distance learning and maybe going to school a couple of days a week, having staggered schedules, having lunches in their classrooms. Maybe having the students stay in one classroom and have the teachers move. I think until it happens, we aren't really going to know. I think listening to the experts in Washington, I think again, science is what dictates. They have said it over and over again. We have to minimize the virus. The risk of virus transmission. And we have to be safe and that is the bottom line, as Joe had said before.

AM So I will pose the same question to you. What do you think the future of education will look like and how do you think that will impact the district overall?

JO Well I can tell you what is going to happen at colleges. They are going to move all courses on-line. They are already pushing for it. Dr. Drumm is pushing for it. They want to have that as a backup plan to move everything on-line. Unfortunately, technology, nursing, dental hygiene, you can't do that on-line. You have to come in and clean teeth and take care of patients in a hospital. So some aspects of what is going to happen is out of our control. Dr. Drumm is also talking about that he has been told that there is going to be a 20% cut in state aid for the next school year for BCC. That means, if we get 40 million dollars of state aid, that is what they said we would get. If we get a 20% cut, that is 8 million dollars. I don't know how we are going to deal with that. I want to make sure that the last thing we do is lay off any employees. We need the people, in fact we will need more people now than we ever did. Because we have more cleaning to do, we have more students to talk to, we have more issues with the students being stuck at home and there is nothing for them to do. It is difficult learning on-line. I have had a high school teacher say that she does not do any zoom meetings until after noon. It is going to be different. And I don't know what is going to happen to the high school. We will have to see. You can't do K-8 on-line. It's just not going to work.

AM Well, that concludes the portion of the meeting with the candidates. I want to thank each of you and good luck.

KM Isn't there another question?

AM Well the second question, you both answered it within your first question, but I will allow you time to answer it. What do you feel is the role of the Board of Education as we enter the new normal during the time of a pandemic and budget crisis?

KM So the Board of Education acts as one body, as a whole. One board member does not singularly make decisions. There are going to be many changes coming our way and difficult decisions will have to be made. The role of the board is to look at the issues, provide guidance and make those decisions to ensure safety and maintain the educational process. In this new normal, I feel the board's main responsibility will be to support our high accomplished administration and staff. They will definitely need the assistance of

the board during these challenges. That being said, I do feel that the board needs to let them do their jobs and not micro manage because they are the experts in what they do. The board needs to listen to all stakeholders and guide the district through this crisis to fulfill the mission of UE. We owe it to the students, families, staff and taxpayers to be accessible, transparent and fair, and included.

AM Mr. Osvold, the same question.

JO Could you please repeat the question.

AM Sure. What do you feel is the role of the Board of Education as we enter the new normal during the unprecedented time of a pandemic and financial crisis?

JO I have tried to change the role of the board and I have gone off and joined TJW PTA and I have been an active member for five years. I go on rides on school buses and see what that is like. It is very interesting. Mr. Testa has also done the same thing. We are in agreement with the situation. I also donate a lot of money to causes in the school district. In 2012 I bought a camera for some students to use. I donated money since then. I can say anything ... I can make up anything I want to say I did, but if you go to my website Osvold.com, I have some of the receipts and information for what I have done and you can look for yourself and you can check out my biography there and see what you think. And, supporting the budget. I supported the budget. I voted twice for it. I agree with the budget. We are going to have to dance fast, in case we get cuts. My first priority in cutting would be anything that does not involve employees. We have a lot of extras that we can cut and that is the first place we need to look. Thank you.

AM Thank you again to each of you. For those of you that are joining us via zoom, please make sure that your ballots are returned and post marked by June 9<sup>th</sup>.

JO No. They have to be received by June 9<sup>th</sup>.

AM Ok. Thank you.

SR 5:00 pm

JO The November election and even the primary, they can be post marked on that day. But this has to be received.

AM Thank you for that clarification. And following this will be the budget hearing and the school board meeting. So on behalf of the candidates I will say thank you and good night.

JO Thank you.

KM Thank you.

NW Toby, do we have any questions?

TR Let me ask.

NW We have a few minutes if you want to ask. Is there anyone who has any questions for our two candidates? We have about five minutes.

RF Can I ask a question to the board?

NW Well, this is meet the candidate, so the questions will be for the candidates?

RF One thing that I would like to say is, if you want the public to be involved in these meetings, then you should have a speaker system so we can hear what everyone is saying. It is extremely difficult to follow what is going on here without being able to hear. I am sitting back here and I can't hear half of what is going on.

NW Yes. We should have had you sit over here, because we are running it virtually tonight. The folks out here can hear.

RF Also, the person who has the license plate outside that has 4 + 1, the answer is five.

LT It's 1 + 4.

All Laughing

RF I learned that at Syracuse.

NW No questions Toby?

TR No questions

NW Ok. We will take a break for a couple of minutes and start up with the public hearing next.

**Transcript from June 1, 2020 Board Meeting**  
**Public Hearing**

<b>DT</b>	<b>Dick Testa, Board President</b>	<b>SR</b>	<b>Sue Reif, District Clerk</b>
<b>NW</b>	<b>Nicole Wolfe, Superintendent</b>	<b>SG</b>	<b>Shannon Gillette, Director of Technology</b>
<b>SW</b>	<b>Sharon Wells, Board Member</b>	<b>TR</b>	<b>Toby Riddleberger, Director of Facilities</b>
<b>TM</b>	<b>Thomas Martin, Board Member</b>	<b>JO</b>	<b>Joseph Ozvold, Board Member</b>
<b>LT</b>	<b>Lowell Taylor, Board Member</b>	<b>PR</b>	<b>Pamela Riddleberger, Asst. Superintendent</b>
<b>SD</b>	<b>Steve DiStefano, UEHS Principal</b>	<b>LB</b>	<b>Lisa Bennett, Dir. of Transportation</b>
<b>RF</b>	<b>Roger Failing, Community Member</b>		

DT Do you hear me now? Nicole?

NW Ok. Mr. Testa. Are you there?

DT My screen says something about start my video?

TR So go ahead and click that and your video will pop up.

DT Ok. Are we ready to go?

NW Yes

DT Ok. Well, good evening. Welcome to the public hearing portion of tonight's triple header. I ask if you would please rise, face the flag, or there will be one on the screen, and join me in the pledge of allegiance.

All Recite the pledge.

DT Thank you. You may be seated. Would the clerk please call the roll?

SR	Thomas Martin	Present
	Glenn McIver	Present
	Joseph Ozvold	Present
	Lowell Taylor	Present
	Dick Testa	Present, by zoom
	Jim Truillo	Present
	Sharon Wells	Present

DT Thank you. As there are no changes in the addendum consideration, I will move on to agenda item number four, and turn the meeting over to Nicole Wolfe and Pamela Riddleberger for the budget presentation. Ladies.

NW Thank you very much and good evening everyone. Thanks for joining us tonight. This is actually our fourth presentation in a series of budget presentations that have taken place throughout the school year, starting all the way back in January. And so, if there is anyone out there who is interested in seeing any of those presentations, we have all them posted on our website so that it can be found there. Tonight's presentation is the budget hearing and we spent a lot of time on the budget this past year in really looking at three different key areas. One area was to maintain student programs. And so, especially in this time of a pandemic when our students are at home and dealing with remote learning, this is the time where we have to make sure that we maintain the programs that our students need in order to be successful. On top of that, we wanted to also be fiscally responsible to our community by staying within the tax cap and not asking or going over the tax cap. I wanted to point out that in addition to that, this particular budget represents 18 positions that were cut due to retirement, and so when we went back and looked through previous presentations, it has been a long time since we have not replaced positions and had cuts like this. So 18 positions and then last year we cut an administrative position, so we have definitely done our best to take and look and balance the needs of the community as well as the students. And the third area that I really wanted to highlight was preventing layoffs and making sure that the current staff that we have are able to continue in the same manner that they have been working. Again, particularly in this difficult time. We have been told by the Governor that there would be four measurement periods. Two, this school year and then two next school year. Where money funding can be taken away.

We don't know how much, we don't know if it will be any. It could be a lot. It could be a little. We just went through our first measurement period last week and we received a full state aid payment. So we are very thankful that we were able to make it through the first measurement period without any cuts. If it does come to that, then we will be looking at mid-year layoffs, we will be looking at different areas of our budget, different programs that we may need to reduce, but our intention and our hope is that we want to continue to provide an excellent education, as we have been doing all along. So with that, I'm going to turn this over to Pamela, she is going to walk you through the budget presentation, then we will take questions from the board and from the community.

PR Thank you so much. So, just a reminder then, we have had several presentations where we have taken the budget from a very expansive budget, and then narrowing it down, and narrowing it down. And so, at the last board of education meeting, there was the presentation of what the proposed budget was and the board did pass, that there was a resolution, and this is what our final proposal is to all of our community and tax papers. So our voter proposed budget... the final budget is \$87,289,972. Now, as you take a look at that, it is an increase of 2.17% over the 2019-2020 budget. And something to remember is many of those cost that we have talked about in the previous board presentations, is that a lot of that is contractual. It is something that increases and that is part of it. We are staying within our tax levy limit, which is 1.88% and so we look to not go over that limit and it is a lower limit than last year. Now this budget is out for a vote and should this vote not go through, we have different options. We would have the opportunity to go back and go for another re-vote, which would be another ballot type of vote and then we would be able to go to a contingent budget. No, as you take a look at the chart for a contingent budget, basically what it does is that it takes your proposed tax levy, the 1.88% which actually computes to your \$790,677. And that's the amount of money that would have to be cut from this proposed budget. And then when you are on a contingent budget, it tells you, it is very descriptive in where you actually have to make those cuts. So you can see down at the bottom, you would have to take \$81,000 from administration. Now, if you look at administration, those are things such as personnel, business, board of education. If you look at program, it's telling you that it's a little over \$490,000. That would have to be cut from instruction, supply, and transportation. And then finally, the capital, that amount of money, around \$219,000 would have to be cut from facilities and equipment. So those are examples of where those actually categories are. So, if we had to go to that, that is the amount of money that we would have to cut from this particular budget. Now, the next slide shows what is called a six day budget notice. The six day budget notice is scheduled to be mailed home this week. And so you will be getting this particular notice and I want to point out what you are actually looking at. It is basically the budget in a snap shot. You are able to see all of the information on one card. You are going to see the overall budget proposal and it will give you in the first column with the numbers, it is going to tell you what our current year budget is. So what we are on in right now. The next column is going to be the budget for the proposed budget that we are looking at voting on for the 2020-2021 school year. And then the final column, it allows you take a look at what that would look like if we had to go to contingency. If the actual vote did not pass. You are going to be able to see the information on the card, toward the bottoms you are going to see the information about the buses, which is our second proposition and you are going to be able to see the basic

star exemption savings, which is at \$756. These cards will be coming to your homes, in the mail this week. On the next slide, as we are talking about our star, this is something just to give an idea of what it would be like for our voters. So if we had a \$100,000 home at full value, the estimated taxes with a 1.88% levy, you can see if it is in the Town of Union, that is at the upper box, you will see that it is shaded out, that is for the Town of Union and you are looking at a tax increase of about \$53.00. If you look at the Town of Owego, which is down in the orange box, with a home estimated at about \$100,000, full value, you are going to see there that you have your tax increase of \$53.00. And you will notice that if you have basic star, with Town of Union, it is \$756 and if you have basic star in the Town of Owego, it is \$720. So this gives you an idea of where they are at. All of this is based on the current equalization rates, and it is an approximation. So, this is just an idea for you all. We also have within this is the \$100,000 project for 2020-2021. And this is something we have in each time and it allows us to continue to do some updates on what we currently have and the following year we are able to get aid back on it. This year we are looking at focusing on AGM and looking at replacing many of the light fixtures with energy efficient LEDs. We started this project at the high school and it is giving us the ability to save on energy costs. This is something that we have been working on.

RF Wasn't that money taken out of programs that were already paid for? I saw it last year at AGM. They had programs that were paid for and they were taking that money and moving that it over for the improvements for AGM.

NW He is asking if part of the capital project originally had lights in it and did we move lights out in order to accommodate the \$100,000 project. Toby is that correct or no?

TR You can say that. It is just a matter of where we want to spend capital project money or spend the \$100,000 money.

RF I thought it was specifically for that and that was it was being utilized for.

NW Yes. We have been doing light project for a couple of years now. One of the things with the \$100,000 project is that the State lets you take your general budget and you have this pocket of \$100,000 and as long as you are allocating it to a specific building, it can't be anything outside of the building, it has to be inside the building. You can get aid back on it, capital aid, the following year. So essentially you get almost 90% aid back on this. This is why school districts take advantage of it. This is something that we have been doing for a couple of years now. Is it the third year Toby?

TR Third year. Yes. The whole high school now has all LED fixtures.

RF Thank you.

PR So, that is the \$100,000 project. What we wanted to do is also show you, now we know that the ballots have hit homes already, however, we did want to point out and explain what the ballot is. It is different. When you are at home and are looking at it on your own, versus coming in and doing the vote here electronically. We wanted to make sure that everybody understood exactly what it is that they are looking at. You are going to

see the actual ballot and what they are looking for you to do is to make a single mark in either the yes or no box. There is proposition #1 and proposition #2 and then there is a place for your Board of Education candidate. We just had prior to this our Meet the Candidates and both of our candidate were here and talking about their viewpoints. We have both Kathy Marecek and Joe Ozvold who are on the ballots. There is an opportunity for write-ins as well. If there is somebody that someone would like to write in. Now we are going to zero in a little bit more so that you can see what the propositions are. Now the first proposition is legalese, and this is something that we always have. This is what you have actual seen on previous school board ballots. I know that it looks very different getting it at home and really actually looking through it and when you are here and doing the voting, this is the same language. It is basically giving the approval vote of yes, or declining vote of no, that we will go ahead and be able to have our school budget pass for \$87,289,972 for the 2020-2021 school year. And recognizing that we have stayed within our tax levy limit. The 1.88%.

RF Now the estimated expenditures here ...

PR Yes. Then, on the second one, this is our school bus proposition. And with our school bus proposition what we are looking at is the purchase of three 65 passenger diesel school buses. So those are what we call our large buses. And then one 35 passenger gas bus. So those are our smaller buses. And each year we are on a rotational basis, having buses where we purchase them, and others are circling out of our fleet. Now, one of the things that as you have older vehicles, anybody can relate to this, the older that they get the more maintenance they you end up doing on your vehicle. So that is one of the things that we try and keep up on in order to have them in good working condition. So that is what this particular proposition is, proposition #2 which is on your ballot.

RF This is one of the things, if I may comment on, I talked about last year, or maybe the year before, I see the school buses running around here, the 65 passenger school buses, and they are not filled to capacity. They are not filled to half capacity. They are not filled to a quarter capacity. My question was why do we need 65 passenger school buses? I suggested that they get more 35 passenger buses it would be adequate to haul most of the students that I see going around here. They would cost much less money, and they would cost much less money to run. I see that we are still doing the very same thing. Can anybody explain that to me?

LT Roger, do you see the buses when they are fully loaded or maybe only half empty?

RF Yeah

LT Do you see ....

RF Does it make a difference?

LT Well if you see the bus route in a snapshot it does.

- RF Well is there anybody who can tell me... Is there anybody that goes around and says that this particular route picks up this many students and requires a bus this size? And this route ...
- PR So actually we have Lisa Bennet who is here on the call and she is our Transportation Supervisor. And that is actually one of the things that Lisa does. She is one who organizes the routes and she is the one who makes the determination of what types of buses and how many kids are on those buses. So, Lisa, is there something that you would like to share on this particular topic?
- LB Well, can you hear me?
- All Yes.
- LB Ok. Because this is a different form of a zoom meeting than I have done in the past. A 65 passenger school bus actually allows 13 inches per student for three students in a seat. If you think about 13 inches, three students in a seat, that is pretty tight. It is impossible to do for high school and middle school students. We run our routes for elementary student anywhere between 50 and 60 students, and middle school and high school we try to run them at 44. Which is two students per seat. If you cram in three students per seat, K-12, you start to run into a lot of discipline issues.
- PR Thank you very much.
- SD May I add a comment. On days that we do leave early, or have a snow storm, or no sports, the afternoon runs for the high school are packed. Mornings are not necessarily as full. Some kids get dropped off, but the afternoon runs, especially during a storm are pretty packed.
- RF So when you say packed. What do you mean?
- SD So, they are full. You go onto a bus and I see two to a seat. All the way down both aisles.
- LB Can I add something to that about high school runs? Our high school runs...State Education says that you don't have to have a seat for every child, you plan your routes according to what typical rides. So, our typical high school run, some of them have 86 passengers assigned to them. And although you may only see 40 students on them, or like he said, when there are sport seasons, it varies from time to time. There maybe only 30 kids riding home. There may be after school programs, or so on, or so forth. We have had a couple of incidents where we have had to close the pit down and we have had to tell all high school students that they will be riding a bus. And they are packed. You can't get down the aisle when you put three high school students in a seat.
- RF You have 60 buses. Is that not correct?
- LB I'm sorry...

RF You have 60 buses. Is that not correct?

LB No. We have 47.

RF 47 now. Of the 60 passenger buses?

LB The 65 passenger buses?

RF Yes.

LB Well, we don't have 47 65 passenger buses. We probably have 34 of them. We have 10 small buses, which are specifically for special needs student. We have 3 large wheelchair buses. And a lot of the special needs students, in their IEPs, they may requirements where they need to be on a bus with a limited amount of children. You will see it in this proposition where it says that we are looking to purchase three 65 passenger buses and one 35 passenger bus, we are actually getting rid of four 65 passenger buses. I am reducing the fleet of large buses by one and increasing the smaller buses by one, due to the special needs population.

RF Do you require more monitors?

LB It is not in the budget to hire more bus monitors this year.

RF you hired two last year? Is that correct?

LB That is correct.

NW Thanks Lisa. I think one of the other points, well two points to be made... one is the idea that a lot of our special education students don't necessarily go to school here. They may be based at a different school district. So they might be going to Whitney Point or Windsor, or Harpursville or Vestal. So, you may see buses with fewer students that are traveling to those different locations in order to transport those students and bring them back, and the other thing that is a big unknown for next year is, if we are to move forward with having students attending school, what will social distancing look like on a bus. And, you know as Lisa said, they are looking at that distance between students. No we are looking at a greater distance between students, so that is just another consideration.

LB And actually, if the recommended six feet per student distance, that brings a 65 passenger bus down to 11 passengers. Which is impossible. That means one student in every other seat.

NW Very interesting.

PR Well, it will be a challenge and something that we will be looking into as we move forward as to how we will do that. So thank you for the questions.

- NW We also have one chat, Alicia Boyce, the Principal of CFJ just wanted to note that the CFJ buses have three children per seat and it is over crowded and that is something that our Transportation Director has recognized. So that you for sharing that as well.
- PR So, then the last portion of the actual ballot itself is for the school board election. And so you will vote for one school board member for a five year term and that is to succeed Joseph Ozvold, whose term expires at the end of this month. So our two candidates, as I mentioned earlier, are Kathy Marecek and Joe Ozvold. So you will have to choose one of the two of them on the ballot. A reminder that it is all through absentee ballots. That you need to make sure that your ballot is mailed and that we have received the ballot by 5:00 pm on June 9<sup>th</sup>. So all ballots that are here by 5:00 pm, June 9<sup>th</sup>, they will be considered for the vote. If something arrives in the mail, after that, we are unable to use that. We would encourage people to think about their choices, be informed if you have questions. Certainly, ask the questions, and you got to hear from your candidates today. Please make sure that you fill it out and that you put it back in the mail. There were post marked envelopes that were included in the mailings and they are there for you. You just put it right back in and send it back out with the postage. We appreciate you doing that.
- JO But if you are closer to the 9<sup>th</sup>, people can bring it in and drop it off with the District Clerk.
- PR Absolutely. We are here, so if you want to drop it by, that's fine. Just please remember to wear your mask when you are coming into the building. So that ends my portion of budget hearing. Again, it is out there for vote and we encourage all of our community members to go ahead and vote for the budget.
- NW So I am going to start with the Board and ask if the members of the Board have any questions, before I go to the community, because we have a couple of questions there. No. Ok. So going out to the community, we have two more bus questions. Lisa, are you still out there?
- LB I am.
- NW So, these questions come from Jeff Strauss. So good evening Jeff. The first question is why is the 35 passenger bus gas rather than diesel?
- LB Well, that is considered a small bus. In today's technology with diesel engines, there are a lot of requirements on them as far as reduced emissions. Gasoline give far less emissions than diesel. All of our small buses we run on gasoline, we get an average of about 12 miles per gallon with them. Which is better than a full size diesel school bus. And most of these buses, we only have a couple in district, like Nicole said earlier, that travel out of district to different BOCES programs. One of the reasons I am asking for an additional small bus is because last year the program that was held at Apalachin Elementary was pushed to Owego Elementary, so we were running a long stretch with some children that were not able to handle a long ride with a full bus, so I am thinking that I am going to have to separate those this year.
- NW Then the second question is, is there any such thing as a hybrid school bus?

- LB There is, however, I haven't done a lot of research into that. I have looked at propane. Propane has come up. Gas has come up. Diesel seems to be the driving force with the large school bus. Although, with the reduced emissions that keep coming down at us, I am looking more to alternative fuels, but I don't think hybrid in a large school bus is something that has hit the market yet.
- NW Thank you Lisa. I don't see any other questions right now. If not, no questions out here?
- PR And I just want to also say that this is a big collaborative effort in putting the budget together. Obviously, the School Board has a say in it, but also all of our administrators who are giving input on what it is that we need. We have information from our community and a big thank you to Debbie Galazyn and Cynthia Wambold who are both integral parts of putting this whole thing together and making sure that all of it is correct as we move forward. A big thank you for pulling that together.
- NW Yes. Thank you to them and we do have one other question that popped up. So, I am just going to read it for the group. It says, what are the two measures we need to meet in order to get the state aid. So I am just going to start with that question. Basically, what is happening is the Governor has said here is the amount of money that Union-Endicott is going to get for state aid. And typically we vote on it. The voters vote on it and that is the amount that you are guaranteed for the next school year. What is happening this year, is that the Governor is saying, here is your money, you are going to get to keep this money, but, there is a chance that I might need to take some of it away. I might need to take some of it away, one, two times this school year and then one, two more times next school year, for a total of four times. And the way that money is taken away, is when we get a state aid payment, there is less money in it. So we don't know how much less it will be. Is it going to \$100,000 less, is it going to be \$2 million less. Is it going to be \$50 dollars less? We don't know. So we have these two measurement periods this year, this school year. We just finished one of them and no money was taken away. There is one more coming up at the end of the year. And then there are two more next year. One in the fall and one in the winter. So if we can get through those measurement periods, then we know we were able to secure the full amount of state aid for the next school year. And the second question says, how can we vote on this budget when the kids may not be physically in school? And my response to that is that for anyone out there who might be involved in the school district, are students and our staff, our faculty, our administration. They are continuing to work, despite the fact that students are not physically in school. They are offering remote learning. There are opportunities for students for lesson planning, students are going through all of the same stuff that they would take in school, but in a different way, and in my opinion, it is much, much harder than actually being in school. We want to go back to school, but we want to make sure it is safe and that we follow the rules that are provided to us from the State. Do you guys have anything that you want to add to that? Ok. So the time is 7:01 pm and what we are going to do is take a two minute break and we are going to flip over to our next presentation and then Mr. Testa will start up in two more minutes.
- DT Nicole, I need to close this session here please.

NW Of course, go ahead.

DT First of all I want to thank everybody who helped get this budget together. And the presentation. Thank you very much. We need to have a motion to recess this meeting into the other meeting. So can I have a motion? I can't see.. I see Mr. Ozvold and Dr. Martin. Any discussion? All in favor.

All Aye

DT Opposed? Thank you. We will be back in two minutes. Thank you very much.

**Transcript from June 1, 2020 Board Meeting**  
**Regular Meeting**

<b>DT</b>	<b>Dick Testa, Board President</b>	<b>SR</b>	<b>Sue Reif, District Clerk</b>
<b>NW</b>	<b>Nicole Wolfe, Superintendent</b>	<b>SG</b>	<b>Shannon Gillette, Director of Technology</b>
<b>SW</b>	<b>Sharon Wells, Board Member</b>	<b>TR</b>	<b>Toby Riddleberger, Director of Facilities</b>
<b>JO</b>	<b>Joseph Ozvold, Board Member</b>	<b>GM</b>	<b>Glenn Mclver, Board Member</b>
<b>LT</b>	<b>Lowell Taylor, Board Member</b>	<b>PR</b>	<b>Pamela Riddleberger, Asst. Superintendent</b>
<b>RH</b>	<b>Ryan Hallenbeck, Dir. of Athletics</b>	<b>TM</b>	<b>Thomas Martin, Board Member</b>

DT Ok. I'm on minute five of the two minute break. Are we ready to go?

All Yes we are.

DT Ok. Thank you. First of all I would like to welcome everyone who is tuned in tonight. My whatever means you are using. And before I can do anything, I have to read this announcement that says, during the hearing of visitors, if you have a question for the Board of Education, please add it to the chat, your name and address are needed if you want your questions or comment read at the meeting. Ok. With that in mind I would like to call the meeting to order and once again ask you to rise for the pledge of allegiance. Please join me.

All Recite the pledge.

DT Thank you. I would like to read the mission of the Union-Endicott school district. The mission of the Union-Endicott school community is to develop students who are responsible, self-directed, involved, life-long learners. The students, staff, parents and community encourage learners to develop a deeper understanding of self, a respect for others and an understanding of their place in world community. And now I would please ask the clerk to call the roll.

<b>SR</b>	<b>Thomas Martin</b>	<b>Present</b>
	<b>Glenn Mclver</b>	<b>Present</b>
	<b>Joseph Ozvold</b>	<b>Present</b>
	<b>Lowell Taylor</b>	<b>Present</b>

Dick Testa	Present, by zoom
Jim Truillo	Present
Sharon Wells	Present

DT Thank you. I now have to read the following statement. I, Dick Testa, President of the Union-Endicott Board of Education have confirmed with counsel that this meeting is being held in accordance with Executive Order 202.1, originally issued by Governor Cuomo on March 12, 2020 and extended by Executive Order 202.28 on May 7, 2020. These Executive Orders suspend provisions of the Open Meeting Law to the extent necessary to allow any public body to meet and take any action authorized by law without permitting in public in-person access to meetings, and authorizing such meetings to be held remotely by conference call or similar service. This meeting is being held remotely via ZOOM virtual meeting software. The public has the ability to view or listen to this meeting live via the ZOOM app, web browser and by telephone. This meeting is being recorded, and will be transcribed at a later date. Now we move on to the next item, the agenda considerations. There are none, so we will move on the minutes of the previous meeting on May 11<sup>th</sup>. Can I have motion to approve the minutes of the meeting on May 11, 2020. I have a very small view. I see everyone, but I can see Mr. Ozvold and Dr. Wells. So that if that is ok with you two, we will go with those. Are there any corrections or additions to the minutes? In that case all in favor,

All Aye.

DT Passed. We now move on to the hearing of visitors. We have 15 minutes at the beginning of the hearing of visitors. Do we have any? Anyone signed up for the hearing of visitors?

NW I don't see anyone on my screen. Toby, do you?

TR No

NW Nope. We are all set.

DT Then ok, good we will move on down to the Financial Treasurer's Report.

NW Ok. So, tonight we have the April Financial Treasurer's report and we have one Administrative Written Report. The written report is the Extra Classroom Activity Fund Report that is provided by Debbie Galazyn, our Accountant. That is all that we have for today's agenda. Can I move on to the Superintendent's Report?

DT Yes. Please.

NW So for tonight's Superintendent's Report, we have a presentation on Union-Endicott athletics and physical education and this presentation is by our Director of Athletics & Health, Ryan Hallenbeck, and so he is going to present this information to you remotely. So I am going to turn it over to Ryan.

RH Can you hear me?

All Yes.

RH It is telling me Nicole, that I don't know if you want the video on. Do you want to see me? It says that the host can start the video. There I am. Hello everybody. All right. First I just wanted to start off by thanking you guys for allowing me to have the opportunity to speak to you about our program in athletics and physical education. And I wanted to take a second to just to start off as well it has obviously been an interesting and tough spring, but I wanted to acknowledge our coaches and our spring athletes because they have been working. Sports have become a year round thing, and they have been in the weight room with Coach Long and they have been with their coaches and as well all know, with the cancellation of school, it also ended all of their spring seasons. Just wanted to acknowledge their hard work and effort and especially for the seniors, who aren't going to have that opportunity to come back. I just wanted to thank them for everything that they did in leading up to this spring season. So, moving into our mission and objective. It is really just, this is my first year at Union-Endicott, and I was a Physical Education teacher, but coming back as the Athletic Director, a lot of pride and tradition. I wanted to come in and have a good Segway into all the success that was already out there. The over all mission of Athletics in general and physical education, is just promoting fitness and health life style to all of our students. That is again within physical education and athletics. Create young adults who will become productive citizens on and off the field. And, you know, I truly believe in creating a performance culture, so you will hear me talking a lot with athletes and the coaches about building a culture with a positive attitude and a work ethic. It is an expectation of your every day life. I take athletics as an opportunity to teach a lot of good life skills that people will take with them into the work force and I am really trying to drive that into our coaching staff and into our athletes on a daily basis no matter what they are doing. We have other objectives obviously. We are always looking at our academics so that the New York state recognition of our scholar athletes, sportsmanship, on and off the field. There is a New York state award that I would love to see a Union-Endicott student receive this year. It is a general sportsmanship award from the State from all of our teams and how they are acting during their competitions. And you can see another objective here is that I brought with me and I know it was something that was being worked on prior, but just the whole K-12 mindset. It is not just about high school sports. How are we engaging our youth and how are we making it a K-12 mentality for our students? I know our coaches are doing summer camps, which unfortunately can't happen this year, but even during their seasons, we had weekend clinics and we have a lot things that are engaging our elementary students and I continue to have that conversation with growing the program K-12. Going along with that, this is something that you are starting to see displayed on the board outside of the high school and something that is a hashtag, that has been put out there. I brought with me when I cam to UE, and it fits right in with what we are trying to build with our athletes. It is the standard of earning your stripes. And again, putting in the work and the effort to earn the respect of your peers as a result. And the three main things that we focus on... I met with every program this year before their season and they have a copy of this sheet. And we really focus on being character driven, the attitude being positive and obviously the student athlete. So the education piece. But I am not going to read each one of those to you. This is something that is posted in my office, it is posted in the weight room where

the kids work out and like I said every one of the head coaches also received this. We are really trying to preach this message across the district of earning your stripes and what it means to be a tiger. Again, just some follow up of what programs we are trying to achieve, in line with what I am talking about. Character driven, valuable experience for all of our students. Respecting our opponents whether it is a home game or away game. I want to get a phone call from an athletic director or official saying that we were really proud of the way Union-Endicott handled themselves. They leave the locker rooms better than they were when they got there. Things like that. Every aspect of whether it is home or away. Increasing participation and I will get into that in a second, with some of my next slides. Building the connection between community and school. A couple of things are going on with this. We have had a Union-Endicott Varsity Club in the past. This year, obviously being new, I took it over and it still runs under the same kind of premise it has, but this year I added in a student leadership piece to it. We met once a month and it was captains or varsity athletes that were chosen by their coaches and we talked about leadership, again what it means to be a role model, a leader in our community, in our schools. I know that unfortunately this spring we had something lined up for our student athletes in Varsity Club, they were going to help UHS with the Heart Walk, Mr. Testa, we were going to work with Endicott Proud on some things. Helping with cleaning up Endicott and things of that nature. Trying to build the connection between our student athletes and working in the community. Getting into leadership. This is something that I will continue to work on and strive to be a great attribute of our student athletes. These are some of the numbers. I know the Board likes to see how many kids are participating and who is playing. You can see that the spring is blank because, I will tell you we had great numbers, coaches were coming in and having conversations about the number of teams and players. We had good sign ups, unfortunately we never were able to create rosters. But you can see in the fall, a total of 450, winter looks like smaller numbers, the reason for that, it's pretty much on average on what Union-Endicott has been. I would like to see it go up a little bit. But there are ten teams in the fall season and in the winter there are only seven. Sports, not teams. Ten sports in the fall and seven sports in the winter. And when you look at some of the numbers where you think that might be a little bit smaller, when you look at the roster sizes of a winter sport compared to a fall sport, for example if you are looking at your JV football rosters of 20 or 30 and a basketball roster of only 12. The number fluctuate there, but they are pretty much on track historically with what UE has been and I have it as a goal to increase participation. We will always strive for that and get the kids onto teams after school. Another goal of ours and something that we are proud of is our scholar athletes. We recognize our scholar athletes in the fall, winter and spring. You can see right there that there are 12 teams that qualified. To be a scholar athlete, your team average has to be 90% or above. We did not have this for the spring season, but I do know that historically many of the teams in the spring have qualified for this. Looking back at the records. I would venture to say we probably would have had 18 to 20 out of our 22 teams this season that would have qualified for that. That is pretty impressive when you think of a team average of 90% or higher. With the curriculum and the work that these students are doing, day to day for us. Another proud accomplishment of our school. I brought this this year, the next slide, it's the exact same premise, but again carrying into that K-12 mindset, and I also working with the middle school, I would like to thank Heather Pufky, Tim Lowie and Mike Moran. They worked with me and their secretary staff, because I brought the scholar athlete to our modified kids. Again, the goal

of us within the earn your stripes is the educational piece. This year we had a fall and winter scholar athlete ceremony for our modified and middle school athletes and you can see great success there. Ninety-five in the fall and 47 middle school athletes with an average of 90 or above. A lot of success and something we are going to continue to grow. I will be working with Mr. Alger this coming year. Again, in this situation, at JFS to promote education and student athletes first. For what we had as seasons, I would say that we were very successful. You can see up there quickly, the success so far. For what we have done, I can't say so far because the spring season are not going to happen. We had three division titles, we had two STAC champions and section IV between teams and individuals, nine. And very impressed also a notable thing that should be on here, and it has been talked about a lot, but they deserve it, is our cheerleaders who were third in states and fifth in nationals. So quite an accomplishment. For my first year I couldn't be prouder of our coaches and our athletes. I am looking forward to getting in touch with the boards in the gym and update the new 2019 championships, and continuing to add to those. Moving into our physical education. Again, very proud of our Physical Education staff and the work that they have done this year. Certainly moving into a challenging time, with the COVID 19. I have to give them a lot of credit to the PE staff, because they have gone above and beyond to keep relevant in a time where remote learning has been a challenge and physical education is something that pretty much is self-explanatory. You have to be physical. You have move. They have worked really hard on making the connection with kids during this time. I am really proud of what they are doing and again I will give a shout out to anyone who is on those PE dance parties on Friday. I know that we are getting a lot of positive feedback. Really great stuff. But so far this year, and what we will continue to work on, our main goal is obviously always increasing participation. This year we did have some things that we were working on. It's our heart rate monitors, in the high school. It was a really neat feature. We were talking about the health related fitness component. A lot of cardiovascular. Things like that. And our students in the high school wearing heart rate monitors and they could see as they were working out and doing whatever activity it was, where they fell within their range. Were they above their heart rate range, where they below? So it was a neat indication for them.. Mr. Harkness put up a iPad and the students would come over and track where they were. They knew if they needed to work a little harder, or not. Which lead right into my next topic, right there. A couple of ways that the student's were driving their learning. With the heart rate monitors they could obviously visually see it. So that was really neat. The other piece. Where the students drive their learner, which I was very proud of, is that we had a lot of units this year where after the skills were taught, and we would get into more of a game plan. For example, I will use... the middle school did it. I will use the high school as well. But at the middle school they did a volleyball unit and after they went through the skill and taught them how to bump, and set and the rotation, now they went into games and they had a mock draft, and the students were the captains, the score keepers, they were the coach of their team, and when they entered the gym, the coach would gather their team together. The captain would talk about strategies. They talked about different things. But it was all student driven. So it really took, not just coming into PE class, and here learn these skills and do these stations, they did that, but then they expanded to the students driving the learning and teaching the kids themselves. It was really neat to see and I am looking forward to watching that to continue to grow. I know that our high school and our elementary are also looking at ways and making that happen. It is

something exciting. Curriculum and development. We had a group of staff go to the conference in New York. They brought back a lot of great information. We had an in-house UE development for Superintendent's conference day. And then the Thursday before we were not able to come back, we went to a regional PE BOCES conference and again, kudos to our staff because they took a ton from it and we are really excited to come back and see what we can continue to do better. The last piece here is something that is department wide. We have been working on this since I came in this year, and it actually helped us when we got to this situation that we are in now. But just really focusing on curriculum alignment and what that looks like and seeing what is essential. I have K-2, 3-5 and 6-8 and 9-12 bands of curriculum. And what that basically means that is K-2, what do we consider essential learning. What are the essential skills, the essential concepts that every kid that is in Union-Endicott, no matter what elementary building you are in... at second grade, these are the physical education knowledge and skills that you will have to move you to third grade. And that is all students. How do we know that all students have met that? Then it goes to fifth. The concepts grow a little harder. It is banding together K-12 physical education curriculum. This year our focus was the health related fitness. The five fitness components. It really helped us, because now as we moved into this remote learning, we were able to still use that as our essential. We made a very quick determination to stay stick with what we have been doing and so for a week challenge from the high school or from elementary. The challenges that they are posting on their YouTube channel. They are all basically, we decided to keep it around health related fitness. So the challenges might be around cardiovascular exercise. Or flexibility. The teachers are using a lot of things to tie back the health related fitness and work on these essential skills that we are hoping to continue to grow over the next couple of years and continue and grow and get better. That is what we have happening in athletics and physical education. Thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight. I am looking forward to getting back, as we all are. I have a lot of questions from coaches and athletes, and I am sure parents are ready to come back and get on the field and get in the gyms and play. We are looking forward to that and I just wanted to say thanks for giving me the opportunity to speak to you.

All Thank you Ryan.

DT Thank you Ryan for all those numbers. At the end of the fall season, you sent out a sheet with a summary of all the athletic teams and what their final records were and what they accomplished. Did you send one out for the winter season?

RH I'm not sure if I did, but I do have it. I can send it to you. I will do that.

DT Yes. I am a numbers guy, so I would appreciate that. I did very much enjoy the Friday dance videos. I won't ask you to close your presentation with some of your moves, but for those of you who want to see Ryan, you can go back and look at the Friday videos that the PE department has been putting out. They are very good. Thank you.

DT Ok. That brings us to the Board President's Report. I don't really have much of a report, except for to once again thank everybody who has gone above and beyond expectations and their job description to get us through this pandemic time. I know there has been a

lot of work done to get food to students, to get food to families, to get Chromebooks to students. To get information to students and their families and I really want to thank all the administrators, all the teachers, all the UE staff for everything that they have done to get us through this. Thank you very much. Ok. That brings us to Board Advisory Reports. Are there any BAT meetings in the last, since the last meeting?

All No.

DT Ok. Then that brings us to Old Business. Is there any Old Business?

NW There is no old business. Just new business.

DT Ok. Then New Business. Go ahead.

NW Ok. So I have two items for New Business. Both of them are related to the high school. So the first is really informational. I wanted the folks out there, as well as the Board to be aware of a new waiver, if you will, that the State just came out with on May 27<sup>th</sup>. This is only for students who are taking advantage of the regents waiver in their senior year in order to graduate. So it doesn't apply to any other grade level. It only applies to seniors who were going to take regents and they don't need to take a regents. So the State had actually put out information saying that there is a waiver and so because there was no regents exams, you may now progress with course completion to graduation. So this interesting document came to our attention. We are required to send it out to all of the students who fit that box, that would need to take a regents, but they didn't take the regents. It's called the parental right to decline the waiver to graduate. So, basically what the State is saying is, that if you are the parent of a student who is supposed to graduate and basically had the waiver and didn't need to take the regents and passed your course, all set to graduate... we are required by law to mail you a letter which has this form attached to it, which says you as a parent don't want them to graduate. You don't want to take advantage of the waiver. You want your child to stay in school. You are basically declining these exemptions. We would not expect that any parents would probably sign this. I mean it would have to be a really unique circumstance for a parent to want to do this. But I thought that since the Principal is here tonight, and he is here to talk about graduation, is there anything else that you want to add to this? How many students are we going to be mailing this to? About 20?

SD About 25.

NW So about 25 students. So if you see this in the mail, I just wanted to make sure you knew what this was. Does the Board have any questions on that? Ok. So the second topic that we wanted to talk about in New Business is the high school graduation. Some of you, I do messages through email regularly, so you may have received the email message last week that explained that we had our graduation ceremony proposal out to the State for consideration. So, the County collected our plan. Our plan that involves a field ceremony. Out on the UE high school field. It is now in the hands of the State to consider. No the State has said that if you want to do something that is more protective. Such as a car parade, or virtual only, you don't need to submit anything. You can go and move forward

with those plans. There are no issues with car parades or virtual. But if you want to do something that is in person on a field, then you had to submit that information. So we are waiting on that and are hopeful that we will find out about it this week, because there is certainly a lot of planning that goes on in order to prepare for graduation. So, again, the Principal is here tonight. Thank you for being here. And he is going to share each of those plans. So if you could speak to what it will look like as a field ceremony, then I thought the Board could also provide input, and what alternatives we might have if they say not. So.

SD Thank you Nicole. That pretty much sums it up. The field ceremony, one thing that we have to know is that it will not be exactly like the arena. For instance. Students processing in. We thought about the idea of students processing in from the four corners, to part of the track. I have to tell you that if we do that, and they are six feet apart, you are talking about the need for about 420 feet for each of those lines. Which is fairly excessive. In addition to that, that would also require a rehearsal. Every year we have a rehearsal. The kids meet their teachers on the first floor in certain rooms based on where they are in graduation. So as they process through, the top kids, all summa grads ... number one, number two, number three, all the way through the summa grads. And then after the summa grads, we go alphabetical. But that requires a lot of detailed planning. So what happens on the Thursday before graduation, they meet their teachers, the teachers give them the cords, their pins, and they tell them where they are. They essentially line them up. Then we go through the whole procession in the auditorium and I orchestrate the whole thing and tell them what they are doing. Everyone remain standing until everyone is in. Then you will give the signal and they will sit and so forth and so on. I don't think we are in the position to run a rehearsal at the high school with the high school being closed and the kids being in close proximity to one another. We have 330 seniors, so I am not sure how many will be at graduation, but I am estimating 300. So with 300 and a rehearsal it will be very tight and not able to maintain social distancing. So, therefore, what we imagined was instead of a procession in, we could do a procession in, however it will be very tricky to do that. Instead, we thought we would do have the kids show, have all the seats on the field and then go through the standard order, the same order that we would follow for graduation and then the child walks to the table, we can leave the diploma on the table, not a problem. It's getting into the stadium. Leaving. It's those sort of things. We won't have control. We talked about tickets. We don't have tickets. We can print them out. We can do that it doesn't seem to be a problem. We were talking about four tickets per child. Everyone else that normally comes into graduation, roughly 1,500 to 1,600 people. Granted not everyone will use four tickets. Some people will want more. I have no problem orchestrating a ticket exchange, but we just need to figure out the details on how to do that. There are no caps and gowns for administration, Board of Education, etc. Normally we have 30 people who process in with the students. That doesn't include the teachers who are there lining them up in the bowels of the arena. If we have those people lining them up to process in, as well as everyone that normally attends graduation, again we are talking about 1,600 people. I guess I need a little direction in what you are thinking. I am thinking the best, cleanest way to do it, the safest way is to have the kids show, pick a seat, it doesn't have to be in any order. We will read the names. We will not do quotes, at this point, we are still in the planning stages. We don't have confirmation from the State. Any questions on that? One more thing. We

would play pomp and circumstance through the PA system. I can't have the band there, for obvious reasons. The kids can blow into instruments when they have face masks on. They can't sit next to one another. It would be awkward. Again 30 or 40 kids right there in close proximity. So that is not an option. The speakers. No problem. However, we will work with Toby on microphones. We are still looking at the same amount of speakers. The Principal, the Superintendent, Valedictorian, the class President, Salutatorian... who am I missing here. Oh, and the APs to read names. We are looking for about eight microphones, unless we share microphones, but are people comfortable about sharing microphones? My recommendation, don't share microphones. Mask, if we are looking at masks for everybody, we have the ability to buy masks, there are a lot of people promoting them. Again I need some direction from the district. Do we need 300 masks? 330? Are we looking at 400 for everyone that is going to be on the field or 1,600 for everyone coming into the stadium? So things to consider. Also, I don't have any control over coming in and exiting. There are going to be close. Kids will hug, people will come onto the field for pictures. Kids will bring little ones, elderly, etc. Just an FYI. I think that this will be very challenging to maintain.

NW You just made me think of two things. One is that our PTA Council is right now selling masks and they are actually taking the proceeds and donating them to the local organizations. So that is something they are Union-Endicott masks. We could put them on the chairs or something like that. And the other piece that you had talked about was using the Endicott Police Department to help with some of the crowd control. I think that we had put in a proposal for four that could help with crowd control at each of the different ends of the field. Going in and out.

JO The parents and family members who show up. Are you going to have assigned seats for them?

SD Again, that is a good question. We can do that, it will be a challenge, and I am going to need a lot of manpower to do that. Block off certain sections. Do you block them off in sections of four? Do you do a ticket exchange where someone has eight coming and then they all sit together. Then that throws everything off. We can try it. I think the whole stadium will be packed.

JO Is that included in your plan that you sent to the Governor?

SD We included some numbers... and it was including the four tickets.

NW And that they would be spaced. But it didn't say spaced alphabetically... it didn't get into the details of it. It left it more open ended.

DT Steve

SD I know Glenn had a question.

- DT Steve. Do you have plans that we have always had in the past where we have the retirees, the teachers as chaperones or whatever. I certainly hope there is a way that we can include the retiring teachers in this celebration.
- SD Yes. That would include them, if they choose to be there. The people who are retiring, the PTA presidents, the Board of Education, all the other principals ...
- DT Thank you.
- SD We did not stray from those plans. The only ones that we can't do, or it would be extremely difficult, would be the procession in as well as the band. I can still have someone come and sing the national anthem. We can do that. We haven't got a hold of the bag pipers yet. We are still waiting for the confirmation, but we can have the bag pipers. But I am not sure if they would actually come. I don't know if they are together for the same reasons.
- DT Thank you.
- GM Will you be indicating in your letter about spacing after the ceremony? Also have signs up that remind people ... they are still going to congregate with everyone, so the bottom line is the sign should be in bold letters, give people a heads up to follow these instructions and have them posted in different locations. At least we will put something out front to remind them.
- SD We thought about that, and when we know the final direction that we are going in, we would do that exact thing. Put up something that says we are limiting it to four per family, you must wear masks to get into the ceremony and in our plan that we sent to the State, we said that Endicott Police Department would be assisting us.
- SW Did you say that you are going to let the parents go onto the field?
- SD No. I didn't but I am not sure ... what I was saying was, people come down to the floor at the end of the ceremony at the arena ...
- SW I thought we had them go outside at the arena... they came out the door, they all met outside and the parents met them outside.
- SD We did that a few years ago. The procession out.
- SW I think that would be better.
- SD I agree. I think that if we are looking at a procession out, that is going to be challenging to control, six feet apart, 300 kids and are they going to do it? That's a big question mark. They will throw their caps, they will hug each other. I see them meeting down at highland park, they want to be together. I get it. So I am not sure that I can control that. We can make an announcement about the field. We can put it right in that letter. Nobody is allowed on the field after the ceremony. Because that is where you get your crowds

congregating. Before and after the ceremony are the biggest concerns. And I am not going to lie and pretend that I will have some degree of control over it, because I can't.

NW Part two, is that we can't avoid the fact that we might not be able to do that, and so if we don't then what? So, one local school district, and they may have changed their minds, but they have said no, we are just going virtual. Where the majority of the others are saying that they are going to do some kind of a car celebration, a car parade, all those different kinds of things. So, go ahead and share plan B.

SD So plan B would be a car ceremony where students would come with their families and there are a lot of gaps in here as well... They come with their families, we envision them coming through the west side of the track and then snaking through the parking lot and then the DO parking lot. It might not be necessary. I'm not sure how many cars we would have. Then around the track all the way past the visitors bleachers and then exiting on the corner where the pit is. We envisioned students, at that point with their parents, handing a card through a window, reading their name and their quote, whether they are a summa grad, honors grad, etc. But nothing beyond that. And they can do their quote there, and I would read it and they would drive another 10, 20 feet, and their diploma would placed on the table and the student and the parents would get out, get the diploma stand in front of a backdrop and have their photo taken and get back in their car and exit. We can do the second part of this, working with the PTA, have various locations in Endicott decorated so that students can go there and have their picture taken.

GM No everybody has a car.

SD Yes. We talked about that, and that is the biggest gap ... not everybody has a car. We thought about ... my understanding is that Ubers have shields in them. I don't know if the district would pay for students to have an Uber, but I would also put that in the letter. If you choose not to use your car, and get an Uber instead, or if we had golf carts, we could have some students walk, we could do something different with them. If you choose to walk, you can walk with your family, we would give them special consideration by the track. So that is the toughest part of that. It is straying from the norm, extremely. We would not have the ability for everybody to sit and listen to speeches because the kids wouldn't be there. We are in a parking lot. We would have to somehow pipe it through a radio. Like you do at the holidays. I'm not sure what else to do unless have it pre-recorded. That is a real pitfall when it comes to that type of ceremony. The bottom line is that the car ceremony is COVID friendly. Period. But it is way off of tradition and not something that we want to do.

TM Would we be covered? Do we need an insurance rider? Liability.

SD That's a good question. I would refer to Pamela and Nicole.

PR We would have to look into that.

TM I would call it not COVID safe. This is the idiocracy of the health department. I can ride with eight people in the car on the way to the golf course, but then I have to separate

myself on the golf course. This is exactly the same thing. They can sit in a car, six per car, but they can't sit in the stands. So you don't approval for the cars, but you need approval for the stadium.

SD Based on what I have heard from Nicole, that is my understanding. I can tell you, we didn't include plan C, but there are other things that we could do. It takes every ounce of celebration as a group out of it, but we could have a scheduled time for kids to come right into the auditorium with their families, pick up their diploma, stand in front of a backdrop and have their picture taken, walk out. I can still do the pictures, and have them decorate their store fronts, etc. We can still something like that and generate some business, put it in a program. Something like that can be done, it just takes all of the group out of it. A virtual one, let me tell you... virtual and individuals in the building are going to be the most difficult ones to plan. From our prospective.

NW Speaking of virtual, one of the things that we forgot to mention, is with an actual field ceremony, we also talked about streaming that ceremony so that people at home could watch, because you do have a limited number in the stands.

SD If we work with Toby closely, we talked about also opening up the cafeterias and maybe the small gym and space chairs out and stream in there during the field ceremony. Because I think that there will be people who will not want to be out there, but they would want to see.

TM Did they give us an indication of when we would hear?

NW Well, this week is the goal. So I am hoping ... we have a superintendent's meeting on Wednesday, so we are hoping to find out by Wednesday. One way or another. So, can I ask one last question? So obviously we are putting all of our eggs in the field basket, hoping that is what is going to happen, but I think is what Steve needs to know tonight is that if that all doesn't happen, can he proceed with a different celebration and is there one that you are feeling more strongly about than another.

SD I want to do basically whatever wants to do. I'll have to execute and plan it, but I want to make everybody happy too. I don't want to do something that everybody hates.

NW I have been sharing the scenarios on the community zoom conversations, and in talking with people, overwhelming the majority of the parents that join prefer a field ceremony. Because it is the most traditional. And then the car, and then the virtual. In that order is what typically is what you tend to hear. Doing anything in a small group, where you go into the gym and are by yourself, or just with a couple of other people, they felt that it falls short in comparison with the other two options. I wanted to make sure if you felt the same way.

GM What did you submit to the State? The field...

NW Just the field. The others are approved.

- GM So, plan B, the car is fine, and virtual is fine? So if they say no, we have something to fall back on.
- SD Correct. But I don't know if an individual one in the auditorium. Would that be ok?
- NW It should be. It depends on the number...how many students you could have. It depends are where we are at that time. Like right now, if we were graduating tomorrow, we would only be able to have ten. So you would be doing groups of ten. But that number could expand by the time we hit graduation...
- SD So if we are all going to be there....
- LT We can sit here all day long, until it's disapproved, any other planning. You are wasting your time.
- NW Well, it's not that he is planning it, we are going to hear something and can he move forward.
- JO The field ceremony, is still planned for Saturday? The rain date is Sunday?
- NW Yes.
- GM Do we need say yes to plan B? or plan C?
- NW Its not voting, its just conversational. Are you ok with, obviously we all want the field, but if it is not the field, are you ok with him proceeding with the car or would you prefer something else?
- SD What I am going to do is plan the details of the field and we will look at national anthem, no band, streaming some music and work with Toby to stream. At the very worst, in a couple days, maybe a week and a half, at some point if we hear we can't do it, we will just switch gears and plan the car ceremony. We have already been thinking of both, we just need the details.
- NW Thank you very much. I see we have a question and I am going to hold it for the second hearing of visitors. So we will get to that shortly.
- DT Are we done with New Business?
- NW We are all set.
- DT That means it is now time to do the general resolutions. I don't know if we have any Participation in Government students listening in tonight, but, so if you know we have had got this packet last week and have gone through all these resolutions and submitted any questions we had so it is not a matter of hurry up and do these. We have looked them over and we have questioned where we had questions. So, with that said, I would

like to ask for a motion to approve resolutions 20-6-G1 through 20-6-G39, and can you just tell me whose hands are up, because I can't see.

NW Joe and Sharon.

DT So we have a motion, we have a second. Is there any discussion? I would like to make a couple of quick comments. I would like to thank in G4 and G5 I would like to thank Thomas Marthens and John Schaffee for donations of instruments to the music department and Lisa Klein for facilitating them. I would also like to thank Jenn Kazmark and the Special Ed. Committee, and you can see a lot of work that they did for all these special ed programs set up for next year and I think I have one more thing in this part. No, I just wanted to mention those two things there. Any questions? Any discussion? All in favor?

All Aye.

DT Opposed? Passed. I need a motion to approve resolutions 20-6-NC, no I'm sorry, 20-6-C1 through 20-6-C16. Again, help me with the hands there.

SW Joe and Jim.

DT Ok, we have two motions. Again I would like to make a couple comments here. I would like to thank Dr. Dake and Heather Pufky for the years of service to the Union-Endicott School District and wish them great success in the future. Thank you very much for everything that you have done and I would like to congratulate the 13 teachers who have achieved tenure. There will be something for them at the next board meeting, which we hope that we can do in person. And with that said, I would like to ask for a vote. All in favor?

All Aye

DT Opposed? Passed. Ok, finally, a motion to approve 20-6-NC1 through 20-6-NC7. Help me with the hands. Do we have two?

SR Yes.

DT Any discussion? All in favor?

All Aye.

DT Passed. Thank you very much. I would like to ask you to look at the announcements. The next board meeting will be on Thursday, June 25<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully at the District Office. And also, please look at the moving up ceremonies listed there. Don't know if you are able to go to them. They will all be outside, but if any board members can get to them and be in your cars, I'm sure that the students and faculty would appreciate it. Also, one thing that is not listed on there is on June 16<sup>th</sup> it will be the senior awards ceremony. There will more information about that later. So please look at all of these things and if you are able

to attend them, I sure it would be appreciated. Finally, our second hearing of visitors. Is there anybody there?

NW There is one question that came through. So Sara was just asking if we knew of any other local school district's who have sent field proposals to the State? I don't know the answer to that, but what I can tell you is that the folks from Broome County had approached all the school districts and basically asked if you had any kind of a ceremony that you wanted to propose that was different from a virtual or a car ceremony, then you had to have submitted, so we went ahead and did that. I don't know what the other ones did. I'm sure many of them did, but I don't know. At least we are going to try to have our field ceremony. So thank you Sara, and I appreciate your comment. I think that is all we have Mr. Testa.

DT Ok. I thank all of you. I thank Steve. Thank you very much. We are trying everything we can to have something worthwhile for these students. Ok. I need to ask for a motion to approve recessing into executive session to hear discussion on employee stipend, multiple Memorandums of Agreement with various bargaining units, Executive Order for Student A, Due Process Notice for Student B. Help me with the hands please.

NW Jim and Glenn.

DT Ok. All in favor?

All Aye.

DT Opposed? Passed. Thank you everyone for coming tonight. We appreciate your interest.

NW Thank you.