

TOWNSHIP OF UNION BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – March 26, 2024

NOTICE OF MEETING:

TO ALL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS:

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Township of Union was held on Tuesday, March 26, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Union High School Library, 2350 North 3rd Street, Union, New Jersey pursuant to notice sent to each member.

Ms. Santana called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:

Ms. Dixiana Carbonell, Mr. Michael Cohan, Mrs. Elsie Conteh-Mackey, Mr. Ronnie McDowell, Mrs. Nancy Minneci, Mr. Greg Nasta, Ms. Chastity Santana, Mrs. Kimberly Scott-Hayden

ABSENT AT ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Mary Lynn Williams (7:16 p.m.)

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Dr. Gerald Benaquista, Dr. Gretel Perez, Mrs. Yolanda Koon

ALSO PRESENT:

Mr. Christopher Buggy, Esq.

Mrs. Conteh-Mackey led the Board and audience members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Conteh-Mackey read the district's mission statement.

Mrs. Koon read the statement required under the "Open Public Meetings Act" that adequate notice was published in The Union County Local Source, The Star Ledger and/or Tap into Union, posted in the Administration Building and the Clerk's Office of the Township; a copy of which is on file in the office of the Board Secretary.

MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Moved by Mrs. Scott-Hayden, seconded by Mr. Cohan, that the Board go into Executive Session at 7:03 p.m. to discuss the following subject matters without the presence of the public in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b: personnel, legal update, student matters.

Please take notice that minutes will be taken of the discussion conducted during the executive session and the Board will disclose the minutes of the executive session when the disclosure will not result in unwarranted invasion of individual privacy or prejudice to the best interests of the Board of Education and provided that such disclosure does not violate federal, state or local statutes and does not fall within the attorney/client privilege.

Action may be taken when the Board reconvenes in public session.

AYE: Ms. Carbonell, Mr. Cohan, Mrs. Mackey, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Minneci, Mr. Nasta
Mrs. Scott-Hayden, Ms. Santana

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

The Board returned to public session at 7:33 p.m.

Ms. Santana asked for a moment of silence for Gail Ann Signorelli, a former kindergarten teacher of the district who retired in 2014 and who recently passed away. Mr. McDowell stated that Karen People, who was also a former employee of the district, also passed away last week.

Approval of Minutes:

Moved by Mrs. Scott-Hayden, seconded by Mrs. Minneci, that the following minutes be adopted:

1. February 13, 2024 – worksession
2. February 13, 2024 – executive session
3. February 20, 2024 – regular meeting
4. February 20, 2024 – executive session #1
5. February 20, 2024 – executive session #2

DISCUSSION:

None

AYE: Ms. Carbonell, Mr. Cohan, Mrs. Mackey, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Minneci, Mr. Nasta
Mrs. Scott-Hayden, Mrs. Williams, Ms. Santana

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Communications:

LETTER OF RESIGNATION – BURGOS

Letter of resignation from Mark Burgos, television production/digital media teacher–
Union High School, effective April 15, 2024.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION – DAVIS

Letter of resignation from Earl Davis, paraprofessional-Union High School, effective
February 9, 2024.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION – WHITE

Letter of resignation from Kelvin White, Sr., Facility Manager of Buildings and Grounds
Department, effective March 28, 2024.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION – WHITE

Letter of resignation from Kelvin White, Jr., paraprofessional-Kawameeh Middle School, effective February 26, 2024.

LETTER OF RETIREMENT – DaSILVA

Letter of resignation, for the purpose of retirement, from Angela DaSilva, kindergarten teacher-Battle Hill Elementary School, effective July 1, 2024.

LETTER OF RETIREMENT – DiGANGI

Letter of resignation, for the purpose of retirement, from Debra DiGangi, paraprofessional-Livingston Elementary School, effective July 1, 2024.

LETTER OF RETIREMENT – KAUFMAN

Letter of resignation, for the purpose of retirement, from Randi Kaufman, speech therapist-Battle Hill Elementary School, effective July 1, 2024.

LETTER OF RETIREMENT – LIENTO

Letter of resignation, for the purpose of retirement, from Joann Liento, paraprofessional-Battle Hill Elementary School, effective July 1, 2024.

LETTER OF RETIREMENT – REILLY

Letter of resignation, for the purpose of retirement, from Ann Reilly, bus aide-Transportation Department, effective July 1, 2024.

LETTER OF RETIREMENT – REILLY

Letter of resignation, for the purpose of retirement, from James Reilly, bus driver-Transportation Department, effective July 1, 2024.

LETTER OF RETIREMENT – GREENER

Letter of resignation, for the purpose of retirement, from Michele Greener, pre-school teacher-Washington Elementary School, effective July 1, 2024.

LETTER OF RETIREMENT – GENTILE

Letter of resignation, for the purpose of retirement, from Joann Gentile, science teacher-Burnet Middle School, effective July 1, 2024.

LETTER OF RETIREMENT – NAPOLITANO

Letter of resignation, for the purpose of retirement, from Frank Napolitano, career ed/business teacher-Union High School, effective July 1, 2024.

LETTER OF RETIREMENT – SLIVA

Letter of resignation, for the purpose of retirement, from Marie Sliva, bus aide-Transportation Department, effective July 1, 2024.

LETTER OF RETIREMENT – MOUTELA

Letter of resignation, for the purpose of retirement, from Isabel Moutela, special education teacher-Jefferson Elementary School, effective July 1, 2024.

LETTER OF RETIREMENT – MUNOZ

Letter of resignation, for the purpose of retirement, from Diego Munoz, health and physical education teacher-Franklin Elementary School, effective July 1, 2024.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE – THOMAS

Request for unpaid medical leave from Jenelle Thomas, third grade teacher-Franklin Elementary School, February 8, 2024-June 24, 2024.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE EXTENSION – MILLER

Request for leave extension from Samantha Miller, special education teacher-Jefferson School, new return date June 24, 2024.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE EXTENSION – CLARKE

Request for leave extension from Teresa Clarke, special education teacher-Hannah Caldwell Elementary School, new return date April 30, 2024.

REQUEST FOR INTERMITTENT LEAVE – McCUSKER

Request for paid intermittent FMLA from Susan McCusker, special education teacher-Connecticut Farms Elementary School, February 15, 2024-June 22, 2024.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE – FERNANDEZ

Request for paid FMLA from Gina Lisa Fernandez, Spanish teacher-Connecticut Farms/Battle Hill Elementary Schools, April 15, 2024-May 13, 2024.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE – NODARSE

Request for paid child rearing leave followed by unpaid FMLA/NJFLA from Carolina Nodarse, ESL teacher-Washington Elementary School, April 19, 2024-January 6, 2025.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE – KLEIN

Request for unpaid FMLA from Peter Klein, CST/Special Education-Union High School, February 1, 2024-June 20, 2024.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE – NIGRINIS

Request for leave without pay from Lisetty Nigrinis, Spanish teacher-Union High School, April 26, 2024-May 10, 2024.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE – PLACCA

Request for paid child rearing leave followed by unpaid FMLA/NJFLA from Nicole Marie Placca, foreign language teacher-Union High School, May 28, 2024-February 1, 2025.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE – BLASI

Request for paid child rearing leave followed by unpaid FMLA/NJFLA from Regina Blasi, second grade teacher-Connecticut Farms Elementary School, April 11, 2024-December 4, 2024.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE – TRIPP

Request for unpaid FMLA/NJFLA from Eric Tripp, social studies teacher-Union High School, April 15, 2024-May 31, 2024.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE – CORNACCHIA

Request for paid medical leave from Lyn Cornacchia, paraprofessional-PreK-Livingston Elementary School, March 22, 2024-June 21, 2024.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE – WALKER

Request for paid child rearing leave followed by unpaid FMLA/NJFLA from Lauren Walker, Director-PreK Department, April 29, 2024-June 25, 2024.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE UPDATE – CHERIAN

Request for leave update from Jasmine Cherian, second grade teacher-Hannah Caldwell Elementary School, new return date April 8, 2024.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE – TEZNA

Request for unpaid FMLA from Paola Tezna, custodian-Union High School, March 8, 2024-July 5, 2024.

REQUEST FOR INTERMITTENT LEAVE – HUFF

Request for paid intermittent FMLA from Heidi Huff, kindergarten teacher-Connecticut Farms Elementary School, February 20, 2024-February 20, 2025.

REQUEST FOR INTERMITTENT LEAVE – COCOCCIA

Request for paid intermittent FMLA from Laura Cococcia, science teacher-Burnet Middle School, March 1, 2024-March 1, 2025.

REQUEST FOR INTERMITTENT LEAVE – GOLD

Request for paid intermittent FMLA leave from Karen Gold, world language teacher-Kawameeh Middle School, March 18, 2024-June 19, 2024.

Comments from Public (on resolutions and all other matters):

Jill Hall asked that when students are being honored, if it could be done prior to the Board going into executive session. She also asked the Board to not readmit Policy 5111 and to also relook at Policy 0164 regarding comments from the public. She also asked that the district improve the programs for the students so parents won't send them to other schools. She also stated the UHS could use another vice principal. Congratulations to all the students here tonight.

Mr. Arminio stated that the Rotary Club has a speech contest on May 22nd at UHS/Library. Students can win a scholarship. The Rotary Club honored two students with the

Herb Singe Sr. Good Citizenship Student Award at a luncheon on March 21, 2024 – Jarian Rivas, a 4th grade student at Livingston Elementary School and Alexandria Esposito, a 4th grader at Washington Elementary School. Taste of Union is April 18th. The fundraiser for the Friends of Union Public Library was very successful. The Ed Foundation fundraiser is April 17th and the Chamber of Commerce is having their Gala on May 2nd.

Women in audience – special need students – the most current IEP should be in Genesis. Senior option/senior dismissal, if the student meets the requirements – there are not enough programs for everyone.

Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Benaquista presented his Superintendent Report (a summary is below).

- Bumper Sticker Contest Winner – Anna Economidis – KMS – Grade 7
- UHS Valedictorian – Sneha Mexon – weighted GPA 5.2034; unweighted GPA 4.2867
- UHS Salutatorian – Abigail Naranjo – weighted GPA 5.203; unweighted GPA 4.2420
- Student Farmer Frontline – March 2024 – Issue No. II
- Franklin Elementary School – Beyond the Bell Afterschool Program
- Mikarla Portuondo – UHS Track – won the North Jersey Section 2 Group 4 Sectional Championship in the 55m and 2nd place in the 400m
- Gabe Hargrove – Wrestling – finished his season with a 36-7 record
- Christine Pierre-Louis – Wrestling – finished her season with a 17-8 record
- Alissa Alcindor – Wrestling – finished her season with a 27-1 record
- Around the U – partnership with the Township of Union TV 34 – highlighting students, staff and programs
- Women's History Month

HIB – Affirmed - February 13, 2024-February 2024 –7 founded/0 unfounded/1 inconclusive.

HIB – Reported – February 21, 2024-March 19, 2024 – 11 founded/1 unfounded/7 inconclusive.

Mrs. Koon presented the Superintendent's FY25 proposed budget and discussed the following:

- \$183,772,681 million – increase of \$12,827,534 (7.50% increase)
- Drivers of the 2024-2025 budget
- Anticipated FY25
- K-12 School Enrollments
- FY25 Revenue Sources
- FY State Aid
- Projected FY25 appropriations
- FY25 appropriations by category
- Budget cost savings measures

Presentations appended to the minutes.

Neissa Filias, student liaison, presented the following:

- UHS Winter Sports – 280 Student Athletes
- Boys Basketball – 7-15 record
- Girls Basketball – 7-17 record
- Bowling – 3-12 record
- Wrestling – 18-9 record
- Swimming – 5-12 record
- Individual Honors – Mikayla May – bowling – qualified for girls individual State tournament; Mikarla Portundo – Track – won 55m sectional championship and finished 12th in the 400m at the Meet of Champions; Alissa Alcindor – wrestling – finished 2nd in the State in girls wrestling and was NJ.com Union County female wrestler of the year; Coach Dino Debelloni – NJ.com Union County Wrestling Coach of the Year; Christine Pierre-Louis – Wrestling – won the girls Union County wrestling tournament; Alissa Alcindor – Wrestling – won the girls Union County wrestling tournament
- Spring Sports – 390 UHS athletes and 185 Middle School athletes

Education/Student Discipline Committee Resolutions:

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following resolutions were moved by Mr. Cohan, seconded by Mrs. Minneci, for adoption:

E-1. *Agenda item approved at March 19, 2024 workession (Affirm Superintendent's determination of HIB-February 13-20, 2024).*

E-1A. *Agenda item reported at March 19, 2024 workession (Superintendent's Report of HIB-February 21-March 19, 2024).*

E-1-1. AFFIRM SUPERINTENDENT'S DETERMINATION OF HIB

Affirm the Superintendent's determination of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) for the periods February 21, 2024 to March 19, 2024, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

E-1-1A. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT OF HIB

Superintendent's Report of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) for the period March 20, 2024 to March 26, 2024, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes (*no vote required; for reporting purposes only*).

E-2. APPROVE DONATION OF BOOKS – VARIOUS SCHOOLS

Approve the following book donations, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes:

School	Donated by
a. Kawameeh Middle School Library	Scholastic Books
b. Battle Hill Elementary School Library	Reading Warehouse
c. Battle Hill Elementary School Library	AASL Books
d. Battle Hill Elementary School Library	Adopt a Classroom List

E-3. APPROVE PARTICIPATION IN SURVEY

Approve participation in the New Jersey School Climate Improvement Platform and Survey for the 2024-2025 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

E-4. APPROVE TITLE I SUMMER PROGRAM LOCATIONS

Approve the following Title I Summer Program locations:

Location	Program	Dates/Times
Union High School	2024 Title I Summer Program	July 1, 2024-August 6, 2024; 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Hannah Caldwell Elementary School	2024 Title I SIA Summer Program	July 8 to July 31, 2024; 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Burnet Middle School	2024 Title I Summer Program	July 8, 2024-August 1, 2024; 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Franklin Elementary School	2024 Title I Summer Program	July 8 to July 31, 2024; 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Jefferson School	2024 Title I Summer Program	July 8 to July 31, 2024; 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

E-5. APPROVE SUBMISSION – ESEA AND ANNUAL SCHOOL PLAN AMENDMENT

Approve submission of an ESEA and Annual School Plan amendment for the 2024 application.

E-6. APPROVE NJDOE IDENTIFICATION OF SCHOOLS – 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

Approve the following NJDOE Identification of Schools in need of comprehensive or targeted support and improvement classification for the 2023-2024 school year: (a) Union High School - \$12,500.00 – Title I SIA Status, Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

E-7. APPROVE CHANGE IN STATUS – 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

Approve the change in status for the 2024-2024 school year for Jefferson School and Franklin Elementary School, which met the criteria to be eligible to exit comprehensive support and improvement and/or additional targeted support and improvement, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

E-8. APPROVE SUBMISSION OF TITLE I SIA SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

Approve submission of the Franklin Elementary School Title I SIA Sustainability Plan, per NJDOE requirements, to exit out of the comprehensive support and improvement status.

E-9. APPROVE SUBMISSION OF TEACHER CLIMATE AND CULTURE INNOVATION NGO GRANT

Approve submission of the Teacher Climate and Culture Innovation NGO Grant from the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE).

E-10. APPROVE ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS – MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING IN SCHOOL PROGRAM

Approve acceptance of funds for the Mental Health Screening in Schools Program in the amount of \$73,340.00 for the 2024-2025 school year.

E-11. APPROVE FRASER’S MATHEMATICS SOLUTIONS – HYBRID ASSEMBLY

Approve Fraser’s Mathematics Solutions to coordinate a hybrid assembly for district parents and guardians at a cost of \$3,850.00 [Title IV Account #8500] and Dope Math Notes at a cost of \$1,329.25 [CIA Account #18243].

E-12. APPROVE ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS – SCHOOL BASED MENTAL HEALTH GRANT YEAR TWO

Approve acceptance of funds for the School Based Mental Health Grant Year Two in the amount of \$375,000.00 for the 2024-2025 school year.

E-13. APPROVE GIRLS ON THE RUN PROGRAM - FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Approve Girls on the Run Program at Franklin Elementary School for grades 3-4 (April 8-June 1, 2024, from 3:20-4:15 p.m.), at no cost to the district, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

E-14. *Agenda item approved at March 19, 2024 worksession (affirmation HIB – JEFF #4).*

E-15. *Agenda item approved at March 19, 2024 worksession (rejection of findings and to reinvestigate HIB – UHS #33).*

E-16. *Agenda item approved at March 19, 2024 worksession (reinstatement of student ID #268119).*

E-17. APPROVE EMPLOYEE #12412 TO ADMINISTER ACCESS TEST

Approve Employee #12412 to administer the ACCESS Test during the school day at the residence of Student #256679 (parent/guardian is required to be present during testing). ACCESS Testing must be completed by March 29, 2024.

DISCUSSION:

Ms. Carbonell stated E-11 – excited to see this and partnering with Frazier

Mr. McDowell stated he is happy to see the status change for Franklin and Jefferson schools. Mrs. Damato and Ms. Baskerville are doing a great job.

Ms. Santana stated E-11 – the owner presented two years ago and we made it happen.

AYE: Ms. Carbonell, Mr. Cohan, Mrs. Mackey, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Minneci, Mr. Nasta
Mrs. Scott-Hayden, Mrs. Williams, Ms. Santana

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Fiscal and Planning Committee Resolutions:

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following resolutions were moved by Ms. Carbonell, seconded by Mrs. Williams, for adoption:

F-1. TREASURER’S REPORT

That the Treasurer’s Report dated February 29, 2024 be accepted.

F-2. SECRETARY’S REPORT

That the Secretary’s Report dated February 29, 2024 be accepted.

F-3. CERTIFY TREASURER’S AND SECRETARY’S REPORT

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(a), I certify that as of February 29, 2024 no budgetary line item account has obligations and payments (contractual orders) which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the district Board of education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8 and 18:22-8.1.

/s/ Yolanda Koon

Yolanda Koon, Board Secretary

_____ Dated

Pursuant to N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.2(h), we certify that as of February 29, 2024 after review of the secretary’s monthly financial report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials that to the best of our knowledge no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.2(d)3 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district’s financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year. This certification is solely based on the information provided by the School Business Administrator and Board Secretary and is assumed by the Board to be correct.

F-4. APPROVE APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS

Approve appropriation transfers in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-5. APPROVE LIST OF CONTRACTS/PURCHASE ORDERS

Approve the attached list of contracts and/or purchase orders (copyrighted materials and licenses) pursuant to the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5 (bid exceptions to requirement for advertising) and 18A:18A-10(a) (purchase through State agency; procedure), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-6. APPROVE DISTRICT WIDE TRAVEL AND RELATED EXPENSES

Approve district wide travel and related expenses pursuant to the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:11-12, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7 and Board Policy File Code 6471 and in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-7. *Agenda item approved at March 19, 2024 worksession (student field trips).*

F-7A. APPROVE DISTRICTWIDE STUDENT FIELD TRIPS

Approve districtwide student field trip destinations and purposes pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.8, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-8. APPROVE LIST OF 2023-2024 STATE CONTRACT APPROVED VENDORS

Approve the amended list of the 2023-2024 State Contract Approved Vendors pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-10(a) (purchase through State agency; procedure) to facilitate schools' purchasing, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-9A. APPROVED LIST OF CONTRACTS/PURCHASES (STUDENT ACTIVITY)

Approve the attached list of contracts and/or purchases pursuant to the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5(21) (paid by funds raised by or collected by students), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes:

School	Account/Department	Vendor/Description	Amount
Burnet Middle School	2006	Charter Up – transportation to music festival	\$5,141.76
Burnet Middle School	2006	High Note Festivals – Calvary Temple and Dorney Park Music Festival – entrance fee (first payment)	\$3,332.50
Burnet Middle School	2006	High Note Festivals – music festival Calvary Temple and Dorney Park Music Festival – entrance fee (balance payment)	\$3,282.50
Franklin Elementary School	Student Activities	All for Kidz – yoyo sales	\$1,728.00
Kawameeh Middle School	17/Music	EPN Travel Services – remaining balance for field trip/competition -May 10, 2024	\$7,200.00 (not to exceed)
Union High School	2227/Student Activities	Corr Event Production – senior day	\$60,000.00 (not to exceed)
Union High School	2012/Prom	The Grand Marquis – prom venue	\$65,000.00 (not to exceed)
Union High School	2012/Prom	E34 Events – prom DJ	\$4,700.00
Union High School	3280/Athletics	NJSIAA-estimate for cash taken at door for boys/girls' region wrestling tournament at UHS-February 2024	\$5,500.00 (not to exceed)
Union High School	2051/Athletics	UHS Student Activity-estimate for bus rental for US Army National Drill Championship, May 1-6, 2024	Not to exceed \$9,000.00
Union High School	2077/2033/Theatre/Music	T&L Catering-end of year banquet for UHSPAC/ Marching Band students	Not to exceed \$4,500.00
Union High School	2227/Senior Class	Zolnier Graduate Supply–caps, gowns, graduation supplies	Not to exceed \$10,000.00

Union High School	2012/Prom	Fabiana Aparicio-prom décor	\$1,285.00
Washington Elementary School	2005/Guidance Counselor	Ned’s Mindset Mission	\$2,908.00
Washington Elementary School	2008/3 rd grade field trip	Kean University – student attendance at Dr. Kaboom performance	\$1,209.00
Washington Elementary School	2012/1 st grade field trip	Von Thun’s Farms – field trip	\$1,573.00
Union High School	3340/Athletics	Sports Network International – estimate for JROTC Service National Fees	\$3,036.00 (not to exceed)

F-9B. APPROVE FUNDRAISERS

Approve the following fundraisers, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes:

Event Name	Date	Purpose
Ticket Sales/T-Shirt Sales/Concessions	March 27, 2024- April 21, 2024	BMS/Drama Club – to raise funds for Raise Your Voice production
Poppin Popcorn	April 1-30, 2024	UHS/Advanced Musical Theatre – to raise funds for student-directed production
Tape an Administrator to the Wall	April 15-19, 2024	UHS/Advanced Musical Theatre – to raise funds for student-directed production
Sunset Tailgate	June 12, 2024	UHS/Farmer Fam/UMatter – to raise funds for fall activities
Miss UHS	April 26, 2024	UHS/Empowerment – to raise funds for Empowerment Club
Monthly Snack Sale	March 27, 2024- June 15, 2024	UHS/Red Cross Club – to raise funds for the Red Cross and club activities
Snack/Chocolate Sales	March 26, 2024- June 30, 2024	UHS/Student Council – to raise funds for student council and future events
Graduation Flower Sale	March 27, 2024- June 30, 2024	UHS/Junior Class – raise funds for Junior Class
Kona Ice Cream	March 27, 2024- June 30, 2024	UHS/Junior Class – raise funds for Junior Class
Online Fundraiser-Blast Athletics	Marh 31, 2024- March 31, 2025	UHS/Marching Band – raise funds for 2024-2025 competitive season
Flower Pedals - PBSIS Rewards	April 15-26, 2024	Jefferson – raise funds for PBSIS rewards

F-9C. ACCEPT DONATIONS

Accept the following donations:

From	For Use By	\$/Item
Shutterfly, LLC	Battle Hill Elementary School	\$1,027.56
PepsiCo Beverage Sales	Union High School	\$411.94
Chipotle Mexican Grill	Union High School	\$175.31
Lowes of Union	Burnet Middle School – multi-disabled class room 151	\$799.00 – Frigidaire Electric Stove
GT EATS 1424 LLC – Johnny Napkins	Union High School - Farmer’s Cafe	\$500.00

F-10. APPROVE 2023-2024 OUT-OF-DISTRICT STUDENT PLACEMENT LIST

Approval be given to amend the 2023-2024 out-of-district student placement list (month of March), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-11. APPROVE CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHIATRY – EVALUATIONS

Approve The Center for Developmental Psychiatry to provide psychiatric evaluations at the rate of \$1,000.00 per evaluation and psychiatric clearance at the rate of \$500.00 per clearance (not to exceed \$10,000.00) for the 2023-2024 school year [Account Fund #11-000219-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

Resolutions F-12 through F-18

Concern the Proposed Tentative Budget for the 2024-2025 School Year

F-12. *Agenda item approved at March 19, 2024 workession (General Fund tax levy).*

F-13. *Agenda item approved at March 19, 2024 workession (Travel Expenditure Maximum).*

F-14. *Agenda item approved at March 19, 2024 workession (establishing a maximum dollar limit for professional services).*

F-15. *Agenda item approved at March 19, 2024 workession (Use of Excess Surplus Funds/Fund Balance).*

F-16. *Agenda item approved at March 19, 2024 workession (Banked Cap).*

F-17. *Agenda item approved at March 19, 2024 workession (Use of Enrollment Adjustment).*

F-18. *Agenda item approved at March 19, 2024 workession (Adjustment for Health Care Costs).*

F-19. *For informational purposes only – vote not required.* List of legal services for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-20. APPROVE EARLY CHILDHOOD PRESCHOOL BUDGET – 2024-2025

Approve resolution approving early childhood preschool budget for the 2024-2025 school year in the amount of \$8,867,462.00, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

DISCUSSION:

None

AYE: Ms. Carbonell, Mr. Cohan, Mrs. Mackey, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Minneci, Mr. Nasta
Mrs. Scott-Hayden, Mrs. Williams, Ms. Santana

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Legal Committee:

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following resolutions were moved by Ms. Santana, seconded by Mrs. Minneci, for adoption:

L-1. APPROVE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT – EMPLOYEE #10738

Approve Settlement Agreement between Employee #10738 and the Township of Union Board of Education, in accordance with the non-public information appended to the minutes.

L-2. APPROVE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELEASE – STUDENT #230813

Approve Settlement Agreement and Release for student #230813, in accordance with the non-public information appended to the minutes.

DISCUSSION:

None

AYE: Ms. Carbonell, Mr. Cohan, Mrs. Mackey, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Minneci, Mr. Nasta
Mrs. Scott-Hayden, Ms. Santana

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Mrs. Williams

MOTION CARRIED

Operations Committee Resolutions:

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following resolutions were moved by Mrs. Scott-Hayden, seconded by Mrs. Minneci, for adoption:

O-1. APPROVE SECURITY DRILL/BUS EVACUATION REPORTS

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:41-1 and P.L. 2009, Chapter 178, approve the following security drill and, if applicable, bus evacuation reports for the 2023-2024 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

O-2. APPROVE ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS – EMERGENT AND CAPITAL MAINTENANCE NEEDS GRANT

Approve acceptance of funds for the Emergent and Capital Maintenance Needs Grant (NJDOE and SDA) in the amount of \$183,385.00 for the 2024-2025 school year, to be used for security purposes throughout the district.

O-3. APPROVE REQUEST FROM BRANDIN THOMPSON – UHS

Approve request from Brandin Thompson (UHS 2023 graduate) requesting use of Union High School to record a music video (during off school hours), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

O-4. APPROVE RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP – NJSIG

Approve Indemnity and Trust Agreement Resolution with New Jersey Schools Insurance Group (NJSIG) to renew members for the period July 1, 2023 through July 1, 2026, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

DISCUSSION:

Ms. Santana stated O-3 – very proud of our UHS graduate and looking forward to seeing the video.

AYE: Ms. Carbonell, Mr. Cohan, Mrs. Mackey, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Minneci, Mr. Nasta
Mrs. Scott-Hayden, Mrs. Williams, Ms. Santana

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Mr. Cohan (O-4)

MOTION CARRIED

Personnel Committee Resolutions:

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following resolutions were moved by Mrs. Minneci, seconded by Mrs. Scott-Hayden, for adoption:

P-1A. PERSONNEL ACTIONS – NEW HIRES

Personnel Actions-New Hires be approved in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

P-1B PERSONNEL ACTIONS – EXTRA PAY

Personnel Actions-Extra Pay be approved in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

P-1C PERSONNEL ACTIONS – TRANSFERS

Personnel Actions- Transfers be approved in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

P-2. APPROVE SUBSTITUTE LISTS

Approve Substitute Lists for the 2023-2024 school year.

Name	Position	Rate
Martha L. Cortina-Hernandez	Sub-custodian	\$16.00/hr.
Salvador Orozco	Sub-custodian	\$16.00/hr.
Dilcia Veras	Daily sub	\$120.00/per day
Diane Dimperio	Daily sub	\$120.00/per day
Luci Maragni	Daily sub	\$120.00/per day

P-3A. ACCEPT LETTERS OF RESIGNATION/RETIREMENT

Accept letters of resignation/retirement from the following staff, with regrets:

Name	Position	Location	Eff. Date	Reason	Notes
Mark Burgos	TV Production Digital Media Teacher	UHS	4/15/2024	Resignation	

Earl Davis	Paraprofessional	UHS	2/9/2024	Resignation	
Kelvin White Sr.	Facility Manager of Buildings and Grounds	Districtwide	3/28/2024	Resignation	
Angela DaSilva	Kindergarten teacher	Battle Hill	7/1/2024	Retirement	
Debra DiGangi	Paraprofessional	Livingston	7/1/2024	Retirement	
Randi Kaufman	Speech Therapist	Battle Hill	7/1/2024	Retirement	
Joann Liento	Paraprofessional	Battle Hill	7/1/2024	Retirement	
Ann Reilly	Bus aide	Transp. Dept	7/1/2024	Retirement	
James Reilly	Bus driver	Transp. Dept	7/1/2024	Retirement	
Michele Greener	Preschool teacher	Washington	7/1/2024	Retirement	
Joann Gentile	Science teacher	Burnet	7/1/2024	Retirement	
Frank Napolitano	Career Ed/business teacher	UHS	7/1/2024	Retirement	
Marie Sliva	Bus aide	Transp. Dept	7/1/2024	Retirement	
Isabel Moutela	Special Ed teacher	Jefferson	7/1/2024	Retirement	
Diego Munoz	Health and Phys Ed teacher	Franklin	7/1/2024	Retirement	

P-3B. APPROVE LEAVES

Approve leaves for the following staff:

Name	Position	Location	Leave Dates	Leave Type	Notes
Jenelle Thomas	3 rd grade teacher	Franklin	2/8/2024-6/24/2024	Unpaid medical leave	
Samantha Miller	Special Ed teacher	Jefferson	New return date 6/24/2024	Extension of leave	
Teresa Clarke	Special Ed teacher	Hannah Caldwell	New return date 4/30/2024	Extension of leave	
Susan McCusker	Special Ed teacher	Connecticut Farms	Intermittent 2/15/2024-6/22/2024	Paid intermittent FMLA	
Gina Lisa Fernandez	Spanish teacher	Connecticut Farms/Battle Hill	4/15/2024-5/13/2024	Paid FMLA	
Carolina Nodarse	ESL teacher	Washington	4/19/2024-1/6/2025	Paid child rearing leave followed by unpaid FMLA/NJFLA	
Peter Klein	Special Ed teacher/CST	UHS	2/1/2024-6/20/2024	Paid FMLA	

Lisetty Nigrinis	Spanish teacher	UHS	4/26/2024-5/10/2024	Leave without pay	
Nicole Maria Placca	Foreign language teacher	UHS	5/28/2024-2/1/2025	Paid child rearing leave followed by unpaid FMLA/NJFLA	
Regina Blasi	2 nd grade teacher	Connecticut Farms	4/11/2024-12/4/2024	Paid child rearing leave followed by unpaid FMLA/NJFLA	
Eric Tripp	Social studies teacher	UHS	4/15/2024-5/31/2024	Unpaid FMLA/NJFLA	
Lyn Cornacchia	PreK-para-Professional	Livingston	3/22/2024-6/21/2024	Paid medical leave	
Lauren Walker	Pre-K Director	Pre-K Dept.	4/29/2024-6/25/2024	Paid child rearing leave followed by unpaid FMLA/NJFLA	
Jasmine Cherian	2 nd grade teacher	Hannah Caldwell	New return date 4/8/2024	Updated return date	
Paola Tezna	Custodian	UHS	3/8/2024-7/5/2024	Unpaid FMLA	
Heidi Huff	Kindergarten teacher	Connecticut Farms	Intermittent 2/20/2024-2/20/2025	Paid intermittent FMLA	
Laura Cococcia	Science teacher	Burnet	Intermittent 3/1/2024-3/1/2025	Paid intermittent FMLA	
Karen Gold	World Language teacher	Hannah Caldwell	Intermittent 3/18/2024-6/19/2024	Paid intermittent FMLA	

P-4. APPROVE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT – DISCOVERING THE POWER OF THE CREATIVE CURRICULUM CLOUD

Approve the professional development session, “Discovering the Power of the Creative Curriculum Cloud” to be conducted by Teaching Strategies, for district special education preschool disabled staff during the 2023-2024 school year at a cost not to exceed \$2,000.00 [Account Fund 11-190-100-610-01-54-PK12], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

P-5. APPROVE TERMINATION OF EMPLOYEES

Approve Termination of Employees #12917 and #12471.

P-6. APPROVE INCREMENT WITHHOLDING

Approve increment withholding for Employee #13199.

DISCUSSION:

None

AYE: Ms. Carbonell, Mr. Cohan, Mrs. Mackey, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Minneci, Mr. Nasta
Mrs. Scott-Hayden, Mrs. Williams, Ms. Santana

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Mrs. Williams (P-5)

MOTION CARRIED

Policy Committee:

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Policy Committee presents the following policies for the Board’s consideration:

POL-1. *First reading Motion Failed at March 19, 2024 worksession (Policy 5111 – Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students).*

POL-2. *First reading Motion Failed at March 19, 2024 worksession (Regulation 5111 – Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students).*

Residency Committee Resolutions:

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following was moved by Mrs. Minneci, seconded by Mrs. Scott-Hayden, for adoption:

R-1. REPORT OF STUDENTS VOLUNTARILY TRANSFERRED TO DISTRICT OF RESIDENCE

For informational purposes only (no vote required): The following residency investigations were completed and the listed students voluntarily transferred to the district of residence:

Student No.	School
#286074	Burnet Middle School – 8 th grade
#290572	Burnet Middle School – 7 th grade
#369509	Hannah Caldwell Elementary School - K
#370791	Hannah Caldwell Elementary School – PreK
#300567	Jefferson School – 5 th grade
#256564	Union High School – 11 th grade
#270594	Union High School – 9 th grade

R-2. APPROVE REMOVAL OF STUDENT FROM ROLLS

Approval to remove Student #351088 from the attendance rolls as the student has been determined to be ineligible to attend the Township of Union Public Schools as a resident student.

For informational purposes only (no vote required): The following totals are as of the February 20, 2024 Board meeting (2023-2024 school year):

Students Removed:	1
Students Voluntarily Transferred:	20

DISCUSSION:

None

AYE: Ms. Carbonell, Mr. Cohan, Mrs. Mackey, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Minneci, Mr. Nasta
Mrs. Scott-Hayden, Mrs. Williams, Ms. Santana

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Technology Committee:

Mr. McDowell gave the following technology committee update: State testing is done online, live telephones have been installed in classrooms, the audit took place March 13th and 14th, the application for Erate funding for Jefferson School was submitted for bid and bids have been received and are being reviewed by Erate Consulting

Approval of Bills:

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and moved by Mrs. Minneci, seconded by Mrs. Conteh-Mackey, that the Board concur with the bills listed in the permanent bound register appended to these minutes and be ordered for payment.

DISCUSSION:

None

AYE: Ms. Carbonell, Mr. Cohan, Mrs. Mackey, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Minneci, Mr. Nasta
Mrs. Scott-Hayden, Mrs. Williams, Ms. Santana

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Mr. Cohan (ch #137396)

MOTION CARRIED

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

Mrs. Scott-Hayden stated it is Women's History Month and she participated on a small panel in Kenilworth.

Mrs. Conteh-Mackey stated the Union County Education Commission adopted a budget for transportation safety for our children with disabilities and all buses are mandated to have cameras on board.

Mrs. Minneci stated there is a fundraiser for the Memorial Day Parade to raise moneys for the Veterans Alliance.

Mr. Cohan stated it is Women's History Month and our Board President will be on a panel tomorrow. Ms. Santana stated her story is our story and she invites all to attend - Galloping Hill.

Dr. Benaquista stated with Mrs. Hall, the Mission Statement is being changed to reflect the students in this community. Ms. Santana stated we will all be proud of our new Mission Statement.

Mr. Nasta stepped out at 9:08 p.m.

Ms. Carbonell stated she is so optimistic that we are rebranding ourselves.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the Board in public session it was moved by Mr. Cohan, seconded by Mrs. Williams, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

AYE: Ms. Carbonell, Mr. Cohan, Mrs. Mackey, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Minneci,
Mrs. Scott-Hayden, Mrs. Williams, Ms. Santana

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Yolanda Koon

YOLANDA KOON
BOARD SECRETARY

