

NOTICE OF MEETING:

TO ALL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS:

The special meeting/Board Retreat of the Board of Education of the Township of Union was held on Saturday, March 21, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. at the Administration Building, 2369 Morris Avenue, Union, New Jersey pursuant to the notice sent to each member.

Mrs. Scott-Hayden called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:

Ms. Dixiana Carbonell, Mr. Michael Cohan, Mrs. Guida Faria, Mr. Ronnie McDowell, Mr. Greg Nasta, Ms. Chastity Santana, Mrs. Kimberly Scott-Hayden

ABSENT AT ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Elsie Conteh-Mackey (10:07 a.m.), Mrs. Nancy Minneci

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Dr. Gerald Benaquista, Ms. Marissa McKenzie, Dr. Jose Rodriguez, Mrs. Yolanda Koon

ALSO PRESENT:

Jeanne Cleary (NJSBA); Mrs. Yolanda Green, Esq. (Taylor Law Group)

Mrs. Faria led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance and 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.

Presentations:

NJSBA – Ethics Presentation:

Mrs. Cleary- presented on ethics and explained in detail the a-j's standards and provided various real examples and discussions. Board members were very engaged and offered some concern we face. Clarity was provided and Board counsel also weighed in on certain topics, i.e. relatives working in the district, doctrine of necessity.

Taylor Law Group – HIB Presentation:

Mrs. Yolanda Greene- provided clarification on HIB and the process in which districts should follow. She stressed the importance of compliance/legal and helped the Board understand their role and what their responsibilities are. She provided a timeline chart for the entire process. After Board discussion(s) are made, BA should be sending (to both parties) the result(s) from the board. Board members had great discussions.

Board wants an additional column on the superintendent's report to show trends\common violations.

Business of the Board:

The Board briefly started the process and will schedule more time to go over goals.

Comments from the Public:

No public in attendance.

Motion for Executive Session:

Moved by Mrs. Scott-Hayden, seconded by Mr. Cohan, that the Board go into Executive Session at 12:10 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, contract negotiations

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.

All present voting YES

MOTION CARRIED

The Board returned to public session at 1:45 p.m.

MOTION TO RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION:

There being no further business before the Board, it was moved by Ms. Santana, seconded by Mr. Cohan, that the Board return to public session at 1:45 p.m.

All present voting YES

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the Board in public session it was moved by Mr. Cohan, seconded by Ms. Santana, that the meeting be adjourned at 1:48 p.m.

All present voting YES

MOTION CARRIED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Yolanda Koon

YOLANDA KOON
BOARD SECRETARY