

TOWNSHIP OF UNION BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – June 15, 2021

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, June 15, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Union High School Library, 2350 North Third Street, Union, New Jersey pursuant to notice sent to each member. Public was able to attend in person or via Zoom.

Mr. McDowell called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Yocasta Brens-Watson, Dr. Guy Francis, Mr. Ronnie McDowell, Mrs. Nancy Minneci, Dr. Kalisha Morgan, Mr. John O’Shea, Mrs. Nellis Regis-Darby, Mrs. Mary Lynn Williams

ABSENT AT ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Kim Ruiz

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Mr. Gerald Benaquista, Mrs. Yolanda Koon, Mr. Barry Loessel, Mrs. Sandra Paul, Mrs. Maureen Guilfoyle, Mrs. Kim Conti, Mr. Craig Wojcik

ALSO PRESENT:

Mrs. Afshan Ajmiri Giner, Esq.

Mrs. Meyer’s Livingston Elementary School Pre-K class led the Board and audience members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. McDowell asked for a moment of silence for Richard Galante, a former Board member, who passed away last month.

Mrs. Koon read the statement required under the “Open Public Meetings Act”, a copy of which is on file in the office of the Board Secretary.

Dr. Francis read the district’s mission statement.

COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC ON RESOLUTIONS:

Ann Margaret Shannon stated UTEA President - E-5 – she is grateful that the non-tenure teachers are being rehired by using the ESSER 3 Funds and officially asking the Board of Education to use the ESSER 3 Funds for two years of salary so we don’t have to go through this again next year.

Mr. Nufrio stated E-3 – parent/pupil reimbursement – how many contracts do we have for transportation reimbursement?

Approval of Minutes:

Moved by Mrs. Minneci, seconded by Dr. Morgan that the following minutes be adopted:

1. April 14, 2021 – special meeting/executive session
2. April 16, 2021 – special meeting/executive session
3. April 20, 2021 – executive session
4. April 20, 2021 - worksession
5. April 27, 2021 – regular meeting/budget hearing

DISCUSSION:

None

AYE: Mrs. Brens-Watson, Dr. Francis, Mrs. Minneci, Dr. Morgan, Mr. O’Shea,  
Mrs. Regis-Darby, Mrs. Williams, Mr. McDowell

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Mrs. Minneci (#1, 2), Dr. Morgan (#4),  
Mrs. Williams (#3, 4)

MOTION CARRIED

Communications:

REQUEST FROM TOWNSHIP RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Letter from the Township of Union Recreation Department requesting the use of a Board of Education bus and driver for a trip to the Prudential Center on Saturday, October 30, 2021 to attend the “Gold Over America Tour”, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION – HRDINA

Letter of resignation, for the purpose of retirement, from Maria Hrdina, paraprofessional-Kawameeh Middle School, effective June 30, 2021

LETTER OF RETIREMENT – MALONEY

Letter of retirement from Sherri Maloney, paraprofessional-Washington Elementary School, effective July 1, 2021.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION – BARTOLO, SR.

Letter of resignation from Cesar W. Bartolo, Sr., custodian-Burnet Middle School, effective July 1, 2021.

LETTER OF RETIREMENT – ROMEO-ANDRIULLI

Letter of resignation, for the purpose of retirement, from teacher-Battle Hill Elementary School, effective December 1, 2021.

**LETTER OF RESIGNATION – ROMANYSHYN**

Letter of resignation from Danielle Romanyshyn, teacher-Franklin Elementary School, effective May 21, 2021.

**REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF LEAVE – GLENN**

Request for extension of unpaid/non-FMLA child rearing leave from Melissa Glenn, first grade teacher-Hannah Caldwell Elementary School, through June 30, 2022.

**REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF LEAVE – NEMEZIO**

Request for extension of paid medical leave from Elaine Nemezio, 10-month secretary-Hannah Caldwell Elementary School, through June 30, 2021.

**LETTER OF RESIGNATION – GRINNARD**

Letter of resignation from Day’Zah Grinnard, door greeter-Franklin Elementary School, effective May 20, 2021.

**REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF LEAVE – POLIZZI**

Request for extension of unpaid FMLA/NJFLA (concurrently) from Abby Polizzi, 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher-Battle Hill Elementary School, through June 30, 2021.

**Superintendent’s Report:**

Gabriella Guido (9<sup>th</sup> grade) stated no complaints this month and appreciate school is becoming more normal.

Joshua Tidwell (10<sup>th</sup> grade) stated excited to complete another year at UHS and thank you to administration and the Board for hybrid learning and some normalcy this year especially after the year we had.

Pedro Torres (11<sup>th</sup> grade) stated no complaints; everyone is excited for summer and end of this crazy chaotic school year. Thank you to the Board and administration.

Faith Olayinka (12<sup>th</sup> grade) stated nothing to report; excited for the future; thank you to administration, teachers and friends for getting us through the school year.

Mr. Benaquista stated thanks for giving your time; please come back and share your experience with us.

Union High School JROTC: We are proud to announce that our JROTC program achieved a perfect inspection score on the JROTC program of accreditation. This program is a triennial formal, comprehensive Army inspection of each JROTC program. Despite the challenges related to the pandemic, the Department of the Army has formally designated the Union HS Army JROTC Program as an Honor Unit with Distinction. The Honor Unit with Distinction designation is the highest award an Army JROTC program can receive. Only those JROTC units that maintain an exceptionally high standard of performance are presented with this award. This status represents a significant achievement as it upholds Union HS JROTC in elite

status. The Honor Unit with Distinction designation is granted to only 10% of 1700 nationwide Army JROTC Programs.

We are incredibly proud and honored that this group of students represent Union High School, our district, and our community as a whole. On behalf of all of the members of the Township of Union Board of Education, I want to congratulate each member of our JROTC program and their instructors Col. Walter Alvarado and 1st Sgt Gerald Schemel. Mark Hoyt, Linda Ionta and Vinny Rettino who is here tonight.

Col. Alvarado stated it is my pleasure to be here tonight and representing the program. It would not be possible without the support of the parents, administration, Mrs. Ionta and the Department of Army as well. It is a team effort; everyone working together. It is hard to get to the top. Our program succeeds because we instill excellence.

Mr. Benaquista stated I get to see the work you have done with our students. We keep getting higher recognition and you spend so much time with our students; thank you for all you have done.

Mr. McDowell stated thank you and keep up the great work; we appreciate you.

Mr. Benaquista stated last month, UHSPAC presented the Tony Award-winning musical *Once on This Island* in two ways: live in-person on the Union High School Football Field and live-streamed to homes. It was incredibly successful and the students and staff worked hard to make it happen.

The production was nominated for the prestigious Paper Mill Playhouse Rising Star Awards, receiving nominations for Outstanding Large Ensemble Performance, Outstanding Small Ensemble Performance, and Outstanding Performance by a Solo Actress for graduating senior Khadija Sankoh. Khadija also was awarded the Douglas Michael Krueger Memorial Scholarship from the Paper Mill Playhouse which will go towards her education in her pursuit of the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre degree at Ithaca College.

We have Mr. Phillips and a few students here from the production who have put together a brief slideshow detailing their experience as student performers.

Patrick Phillips stated we completed *Once on this Island*. With the pandemic the student persevered with online rehearsals, it wasn't easy but they persevered for successful results. I have four students here that were in the production: Layla Soares, Kanasha Sanco, Denae Johnson and Bianca Cordova.

Layla Soares (sophomore) stated going to UHS to see the UHSPAC productions has been a transition since I was in middle school. I've always dreamed about being on that stage and performing for everyone to see. This year that dream came true. Being in *Once on this Island* has opened my eyes to a world beyond one that I could've ever imagined. The cast as a whole are some of the most accepting, most amazing people that I could have in my life. They not only help me to push myself when needed but they're there for me in times of need. Being in this

production has helped me meet people of all different ethnicities, races, ages and religions and for that I am so beyond grateful. The UHSPAC has helped me improve on my singing, dancing and acting skills but it has also taught me so much more. I've learned how to communicate with adults in the business world, how to use construction tools and how to be a leader. I'm so thankful for Mr. Phillips, Ms. Carr, Ms. Malanga, Ms. Abbate and the rest of the staff that helped this production to be what it was. They were true leaders and exactly what students like me expect in a teacher. They not only encouraged us to do our best but did so with the utmost grace and respect. I've learned so much in the few months that I've been a part of the UHSPAC and I cannot wait to see what the future holds.

Denae Johnson stated joining UHSPAC has been one of my goals since I watch Peter Pan back in 2018 and saying that it's been a dream would be the understatement of the year. I kind of expected to be outcasted and ignored because I'm a freshman coming into a show with people who've been involved with the PAC since they were kids but my experience has been anything but lonely. As soon as I logged onto our first virtual rehearsal I felt so welcomed by both the new people and the kids who'd been working on this show for almost a year and a half. Because of UHSPAC's production of Once on this Island, I've made friends in all grades who I still interact with almost every day. I've gathered so much insight and wisdom from the seniors and I've regained my excitement for performing after being surrounded by so many dedicated, smart, talented human beings. I've been further immersed in the wonderful world of theatre and I've improved upon my acting, singing and dancing skills. I've also developed other skills like how to use power tools and how to build a table from scratch. I'm so grateful for Mr. Phillips, Ms. Carr, Ms. Abbate, Mrs. Malanga, Mr. Hamilton, Mr. Esquivel and all of the other staff who brought this incredible production to life. I am forever grateful that they took a chance on me and let me into this amazing program. Overall, I am so grateful for this experience and for all the people I've met during it. I can't wait to be involved in more PAC productions in the future and be further involved with everything UHS has to offer.

Bianca Cordova stated coming from a catholic school I didn't have a lot of opportunities to do theatre but at Union High School it was completely opposite. Auditioning for UHSPAC was very nerve racking and scary because I had known no one and I didn't know what to expect. I felt so overwhelmed at how welcomed I was as a new kid and a freshman. After a week I already felt like I was a part of this family. Everyone within this company is so caring and passionate about this art. I absolutely love being around each and every one of them. The amount that you will learn just by being a part of the PAC is more than you think. We learn about all aspects of the musical theatre world like the technical needs that go into making a show successful. Mr. Phillips, Ms. Carr and Ms. Abbate make it very clear that they are there to help you in any way possible. I cannot thank them enough for everything they've done to put on the production of Once on this Island this year. UHS PAC is truly one community that lifts each other up and supports one another no matter what, we always have a good time together. I have no idea what I would do without them. I'm so very lucky that I still have 3 years with the PAC and can't wait to see what we accomplish together.

Mr. Phillips stated thank you for having us and I'm so proud of our students.

See presentation appended to minutes.

Mr. Benaquista stated the amount of time and energy you and your team and students put in to make these performances happen; the kids love it and it is the testimony of leadership.

Union High School - Unsung Hero: The Unsung Hero award is sponsored by the NJ School Boards Association. Each High School in Union County selects one senior student for the award who has made a difference.

For UHS this year, the recipient is Skylar Walter. Skylar has a business called "Skylar Shop" where she works in cooperation with Global Giving, and is set up for Covid relief so a portion of her profits are donated to the cause. In addition she also has a business selling glass music plaques through social media.

Skylar also leads as President of the Feminist Club at UHS. Her role is to coordinate meetings and fundraising. The club hopes to bring awareness to the public on a variety of current social issues affecting our youth.

Skylar also has managed to take on numerous community service projects such as volunteering at the middle school and high school shows. Some of the responsibilities include being in the pit and stage crew. When the curtain opens, she is playing not one but 5 instruments. Congratulations to Skylar!

Union High School - Athletic Program 2020-2021 Signings summary. A number of our Union Athletes have signed to colleges and universities, and I would like to just share some of these signings. See document appended to minutes.

Union High School - Union County Scholars Breakfast: I would like to recognize this year's valedictorian and salutatorian. I was fortunate enough to have breakfast with these students a few weeks ago at the Union Count Scholars Breakfast and I was truly impressed by them.

Valedictorian - Dylan DeFelipe - Will be attending Cornell University. He will be on the pre-med track with a Health Care Policy major. He will also be in the Dyson Business school where he will be getting his Life Science minor.

Salutatorian - Nicholas Vasquez - Will be Attending Harvard University. He will be studying neuroscience on the pre-med track with a secondary degree in Latinx studies.

Union High School - Senior Awards: I would also like to congratulate all of the students who received a scholarship on Senior Awards night. 145 scholarships were awarded, totaling \$64,575.00.

I would especially like to recognize some students who received high-amount scholarships including Ivana Brito who received a \$2500 scholarship to be given to a student who demonstrates perseverance, charity, and potential to succeed and

Detrah Bowman who received \$4000 for a student continuing their education at Montclair State. Congratulations to all award winners.

Start Strong Assessment 2020: Last week the Board requested more information about the 2020 administration of Start Strong. Mrs. Moran put together a short presentation on the district's summary data.

Randi Morgan stated Start Strong Assessment was voluntary in 2020 but will be mandatory for all schools in the fall of 2021. It assess grades ELA grades 4-10; math 4-8, Algebra 1, Algebra 2 and geometry and science 5, 8, and 12. It is used to provide insight into the level of support a student may need in order to achieve grade-level standards and was administered 100% virtually at home.

When reviewing score reports, the primary goal is to provide information about student needs for additional support for classroom teachers and school leaders. The information provided by these assessments are only one piece of the puzzle used to understand a student's academic needs. The NJDOE recommends that the data should only be used with other supporting evidence.

If you want more information about understanding the assessment or your students' scores, you can go to <https://nj.mypersonsupport.com/StartStrong/> and click on Score Interpretation and Design Manual.

In the data I noticed in ELA, almost half of students in all grade levels require less support; in math, students in transitional grades/course (grades 5, 6 and 9 – Algebra I/Geometry) may require strong support; and in science, many students may need stronger levels of support, especially in grade 8.

What will I wonder about this data? Knowing that we will be taking it in the Fall, how are we going to use that data? We may be able to use that data to help classroom teacher make instructional decisions, help building administration design MTSS and intervention programs and help district design targeted PD to support specific subject areas. See document appended to the minutes.

Mr. Benaquista stated thank you for all your help and support.

Union High School - Post-Graduation plans: The post-graduation plans of our students represent colleges and universities, the military, careers, and technical schools. This slideshow put together by our school counselors highlights some of the post-graduation plans of our students, and the list keeps growing! See document appended to minutes,

Report on HIB for the period June 9, 2021, to June 15, 2021 - 1 HIB # 3 KMS was founded.

Attendance For the Month of May: Students 95.7%; Staff 93.3%

As this is my last board meeting as Acting Superintendent, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank the entire Union Schools community for your support and understanding over the last six months. When appointed, I had two goals. One was to increase the amount of communication between the district and its staff and families. The second was to reopen schools safely for in-person learning. Without everyone in the school community working together, achieving those two goals would not have been possible. I would like to just take a few moments to thank a few people for their support.

I would most importantly like to thank all of the families and students of the district for their ongoing dedication to ensuring that our students receive the best education they can and for continuing to share their values and needs with me. Without you, our students would not have achieved nearly as much as they did this year.

I would like to thank the PTA for welcoming me to their meetings and for working collaboratively with me to ensure that our families' voices are heard and the students are supported.

Thank you to all the teachers and staff in the buildings who worked so hard to learn all new platforms, to embrace new strategies to engage students, and dedicated countless hours to changing so much about how they did things, all for our students.

Thank you to the maintenance and custodial staff. Without you, the reopening of schools and the ongoing maintenance and cleaning of schools, allowing us to stay open, would not have been possible.

Thank you to the administrators and all Central Office personnel. You were understanding when things were tough and pushed me when things weren't going right. You work so hard to make sure that our staff and students get everything they need and I am truly honored to have each of you on the team.

And thank you to the Board of Education for giving me the opportunity to lead this amazing district.

As I move back into my role as Assistant Superintendent, I look forward to working with Dr. Taylor to continue the district's progression forward. Again, thank you for all your support.

Mr. McDowell stated thank you for an outstanding job you have done for the past six months. It was a trial by fire. You were put in a situation where you were the only one – we usually had one superintendent and two assistant superintendents – both retired, Mr. Tatum and Mrs. Moses and everything was on your shoulders and you did an amazing job. You opened the line of communications between parents and everyone – the Board, the teachers, administrators. In my opinion you did an outstanding job and I'm appreciative. It will be long remembered the work you did to getting us where we are today. Thank you.



## Education/Student Discipline Committee Resolutions:

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following resolutions were moved by Mrs. Regis-Darby, seconded by Mrs. Brens-Watson for adoption:

E-1. *Agenda item reported at June 8, 2021 worksession (Superintendent's Report of HIB-May 19-June 8, 2021).*

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

Affirm the Superintendent's determination of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) for the periods May 19, 2021 to June 8, 2021, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

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

Superintendent's Report of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) for the period June 9, 2021 to June 15, 2021, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes (*no vote required; for reporting purposes only*).

**E-2. APPROVE PARENT/PUPIL TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT – 2020-2021**

Approve parent/pupil transportation contract for special education student attending Phoenix Center at the rate of \$33.14 per day (not to exceed \$1,400.00) for the 2020-2021 school year, in accordance with the non-public information appended to the minutes.

**E-3. APPROVE PARENT/PUPIL TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT – 2021-2022**

Approve parent/pupil transportation contract for special education student attending Phoenix Center at the rate of \$33.14 per day (not to exceed \$7,000.00) for the 2021-2022 school year, in accordance with the non-public information appended to the minutes.

**E-4. APPROVE CURRICULUM GUIDES AND UPDATES**

Approve the following curriculum guides and updates, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes:

1. Hospitality & Tourism Marketing
2. Grade 7 Financial Literacy
3. Grade 6 Financial Literacy
4. Accounting I
5. Accounting II
6. Grade 8 Financial Literacy Business and Entrepreneurship
7. Computer Applications I
8. Computer Applications II
9. Fashion Marketing
10. Business Management
11. Cooperative Marketing Education
12. Marketing
13. Sports and Entertainment Marketing
14. Public Relations
15. Honors Corporate Internship

- 16. Financial Literacy
- 17. Criminal Justice
- 18. Business Professional
- 19. Business Ethics
- 20. Business Law

E-5. APPROVE AGREEMENT FOR NONPUBLIC CHAPTERS 192-193 SERVICES – UCESC

Approve Resolution and Agreement for Nonpublic – Public Law 1977 Chapters 192-193 Services with the Union County Education Services Commission (UCESC) for the 2021-2022 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

E-6. APPROVE AGREEMENT FOR NONPUBLIC EQUITABLE IDEA SERVICES – UCESC

Approve Resolution and Agreement for Nonpublic School Equitable IDEA Services with the Union County Education Services Commission (UCESC) for the 2021-2022 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

E-7. APPROVE AGREEMENT FOR NONPUBLIC CHAPTER 226 NURSING SERVICES – UCESC

Approve Resolution and Agreement for Chapter 226 Nonpublic School Nursing Services with the Union County Educational Services Commission (UCESC) for the 2021-2022 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

E-8. APPROVE AGREEMENT FOR NONPUBLIC SECURITY AID PROGRAM – UCESC

Approve Resolution and Agreement for the New Jersey Nonpublic Security Aid Program with the Union County Educational Services Commission (UCESC) for the 2021-2022 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

E-9. APPROVE AGREEMENT FOR NONPUBLIC SCHOOL TEXTBOOKS – UCESC

Approve Resolution and Agreement for the New Jersey Nonpublic School Textbooks with the Union County Educational Services commission for the 2021-2022 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

E-10. APPROVE AGREEMENT FOR NONPUBLIC TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE PROGRAM – UCESC

Approve Resolution and Agreement for New Jersey Nonpublic Technology Initiative Program with the Union County Educational Services for the 2021-2022 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

E-11. APPROVE AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES – UCESC

Approve Agreement for Professional Services with the Union County Educational Services Commission for the 2021-2022 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

E-12. APPROVE SUBMISSION OF SAFE RETURN PLAN TO NJDOE

Approve submission of the Safe Return Plan to the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) on or before June 24, 2021.

E-13. APPROVE NJSIAA MEMBERSHIP

Approve the membership and dues for the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association for Union High School Athletic Department for the 2021-2022 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

DISCUSSION:

None

AYE: Mrs. Brens-Watson, Dr. Francis, Mrs. Minneci, Dr. Morgan, Mr. O’Shea, Mrs. Regis-Darby, Mrs. Williams, Mr. McDowell

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Mrs. Regis-Darby (E-4)

MOTION CARRIED

Fiscal and Planning Committee Resolutions:

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

F-1. TREASURER’S REPORT

That the Treasurer’s Report dated May 31, 2021 be accepted.

F-2. SECRETARY’S REPORT

That the Secretary’s Report dated May 31, 2021 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 May 31, 2021 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 May 31, 2021 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 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. *Approved at June 8, 2021 worksession (Student Field Trips).*

**F-7A. PRE-APPROVE DISTRICTWIDE STUDENT FIELD TRIPS**

Pre-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 2020-2021 STATE CONTRACT VENDORS**

Approve the amended list of the 2020-2021 State Contract 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-9. 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
Union High School	2227/Class of 2021	O'Donnell Sign Company – personalization for lawn signs	\$1,750.00
Union High School	2077/Music/theatre	Ophelia & Friends LLC – prop rental for UHSPAC production – <i>Once on this Island</i>	\$1,610.16
Union High School	2033/Marching Band	A Wish Come True Performance Wear – color guard uniforms for marching band	\$2,000.00 (not to exceed)
Union High School	2077/UHSPAC	The Costumer – costume rental for UHSPAC spring 2021 musical	\$1,529.60
Union High School	2077/UHSPAC	Audio Inc. – audio rental for UHSPAC spring 2021 musical	\$6,498.70
Union High School	2033/Marching Band	USBands – membership/entrance fees for 2021 season	\$1,300.00
Union High School	2077/Music/Theatre	11hourDesign – scenic materials, construction, design for UHSPAC production	\$6,074.25
Union High School	AP/Counseling	Collegeboard – to pay for AP exams	\$25,000.00 (not to exceed)

**F-10. APPROVE 2020-2021 OUT-OF-DISTRICT STUDENT PLACEMENT LIST**

Approval be given to amend the 2020-2021 out-of-district student placement list, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-11. APPROVE FUNDRAISERS**

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

Event Name	Date	Purpose
BSN Clothing Fundraiser	August 15- December 1, 2021	UHS/Union Field Hockey – to raise funds for senior night end of season party
T-Shirt Fundraiser	September 1- December 30, 2021	UHS/Girls Volleyball – to raise funds for senior end of season party/senior gifts

**F-12. ACCEPT DONATIONS**

Accept the following donations:

From	For Use By	\$/Item
Mirion Technologies (Capintec)	District Students/Staff	5 cases of pediatric masks; 5 cases of adult masks (25,000 masks)

**F-13. APPROVE PURCHASING MANUAL**

Approve the 2021-2022 Purchasing Manual, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-14. APPROVE PAYMENT SCHEDULE FOR 2021-2022 TAX LEVY**

Approve payment schedule for the 2021-2022 Tax Levy, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-15-A. APPROVE TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO CAPITAL RESERVE**

It is recommended that the Board approve the following resolution to transfer of funds to capital reserve:

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:21-2 and N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-13 permit a Board of Education to establish certain reserve accounts; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned statutes authorize procedures under the authority of the Commissioner of Education which permit a board of education to transfer excess revenue or unexpended appropriations into reserve accounts during the month of June; and

WHEREAS, the Union Board of Education has determined that an amount up to \$2,000,000.00 may be available for such purpose of transfer;

NOW BE IT RESOLVED by the Union Board of Education that it does authorize the transfer in an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000.00 to the Capital Reserve Account established by this Board as per statute and administrative code for the purposes thereof.

**F-15-B. APPROVE TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO MAINTENANCE RESERVE**

It is recommended that the Board approve the following resolution to transfer of funds to maintenance reserve:

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:21-2 and N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-13 permit a Board of Education to establish certain reserve accounts; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned statutes authorize procedures under the authority of the Commissioner of Education which permit a board of education to transfer excess revenue or unexpended appropriations into reserve accounts during the month of June; and

WHEREAS, the Union Board of Education has determined that an amount up to \$500,000.00 may be available for such purpose of transfer;

NOW BE IT RESOLVED by the Union Board of Education that it does authorize the transfer in an amount not to exceed \$500,000.00 to the Maintenance Reserve Account established by this Board as per statute and administrative code for the purposes thereof.

**F-15-C. APPROVE TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO EMERGENCY RESERVE**

It is recommended that the Board approve the following resolution to transfer of funds to emergency reserve:

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:21-2 and N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-13 permit a Board of Education to establish certain reserve accounts; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned statutes authorize procedures under the authority of the Commissioner of Education which permit a board of education to transfer excess revenue or unexpended appropriations into reserve accounts during the month of June; and

WHEREAS, the Union Board of Education has determined that an amount up to \$100,000.00 may be available for such purpose of transfer;

NOW BE IT RESOLVED by the Union Board of Education that it does authorize the transfer in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00 to the Emergency Reserve Account established by this Board as per statute and administrative code for the purposes thereof.

**F-15-D. APPROVE TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO FOOD SERVICE FUND**

Approve the transfer of not to exceed \$81,065.30 from the general fund to the food service fund to pay for prior years' balances accrued from free, reduced students and graduated students as of June 30, 2021.

**F-16. APPROVE ADDENDUM TO EXTEND AGREEMENT – ESS**

Approve Addendum to extend Agreement with ESS Northeast, LLC, to provide substitute staffing, for the period July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-17. APPROVE SUMMIT SPEECH – ITINERANT SERVICES**

Approve summit Speech to provide itinerant services, teacher of the deaf, at the rate of \$165.00/hr. (not to exceed \$700.00) for the 2021-2022 school year [Account #11-000-216-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-18. APPROVE MAXIM HEALTHCARE SERVICES – NURSING SERVICES**

Approve Maxim Healthcare Services Inc. to provide nursing services at the rate of \$47.50/hr. for RN and \$40.50/hr. for LPN (not to exceed \$60,000.00) for the 2021-2022 school year [Account #11-000-216-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-19. APPROVE DR. PAHIRATHI HARAN – NEURODEVELOPMENTAL EVALUATIONS**

Approve Dr. Pahirathi Haran to provide neurodevelopmental evaluations at the rate of \$550.00 per evaluation (not to exceed \$11,500.00) for the 2021-2022 school year [Account #11-000-219-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-20. APPROVE ATC HEALTHCARE SERVICES – NURSING SERVICES**

Approve ATC (Around the Clock) Healthcare Services Inc. to provide nursing services at the rate of \$60.00/hr. for RN-CSN and \$53.00/hr. for RN non-CSN and \$45.68/hr. for LPN (not to exceed \$370,000.00) for the 2021-2022 school year [Account #11-000-216-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-21. APPROVE ADVANCING OPPORTUNITIES – EVALUATIONS**

Approve Advancing Opportunities to conduct assistive technology and augmentative communication (AAC) evaluations for district students at the rate of \$990.00 for assistive technology evaluation and \$1,320.00 for augmentative communication evaluation (not to exceed \$4,000.00) for the 2021-2022 school year [Account #11-000-219-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-22. APPROVE TECHNOLOGY FOR EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION CONSULTING – EVALUATIONS**

Approve Technology for Education and Communication Consulting Incorporated to provide the following evaluations for district students at the rate of \$850.00 for assistive technology evaluation and \$900.00 for augmentative communication evaluation (not to exceed \$7,000.00) for the 2021-2022 school year [Account #11-000-219-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-23. APPROVE PETTY CASH ACCOUNT FOR CBI – HANNAH CALDWELL**

Approve establishment of a petty cash account for costs associated with students' IEP driven Community Based Instruction (CBI) at Hannah Caldwell Elementary School – Extended School Year Program in the amount of \$1,500.00 for the 2021-2022 school year.

**F-24. APPROVE AGREEMENT WITH i3EDUCATION – POS SYSTEM**

Approve Agreement with i3Education for PaySchools online payment system and QuickLunch POS system, including installation of hardware, software, support, maintenance and training, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-25. APPROVE APPLICATION/ACCEPTANCE OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN – ESSER**

Approve the application and acceptance of the following allocations from the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE): American Rescue Plan – ESSER - \$6,678,401.00;

application to be submitted on or before November 24, 2021, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-26. APPROVE TEAM PHYSICIAN – KENNETH GIRVAN SWAN JR., M.D.**

Approve Kenneth Girvan Swan Jr., M.D., as the Team School Physician for athletics for the 2021-2022 school year at an annual rate of \$8,500.00.

**F-27. APPROVE 2021-2022 OUT-OF-DISTRICT STUDENT PLACEMENT LIST**

Approval be given to amend the 2021-2022 out-of-district student placement list, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-28. *For informational purposes only – vote not required.*** List of legal services for the 2020-2021 fiscal year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-29. APPROVE AVEANNA HEALTHCARE INC. – NURSING SERVICES**

Approve Aveanna Healthcare, Inc. (d/b/a Epic Health Services) to provide nursing services at the rate of \$60.00/hr. for 1:1 RN, \$50.00/hr. for 1:1 LPN, \$130.00 per trip for Transportation RN for up to 2 hours (then 1:1 hourly rate for additional hours), and \$130.00 per trip for Transportation LPN for up to 2 hours (then 1:1 hourly rate for additional hours) (not to exceed \$215,000.00) for the 2021-2022 school year [Account #11-000-216-320-01-19].

**F-30. APPROVE THE ARC OF NEW JERSEY – PLANS FOR LIFE CLUB**

Approve The Arc of New Jersey to provide Plans for Life Club (MAPS)/HOW Series which includes engaging students in learning about the world of employment, including career exploration, job search strategies, the application and interview process, pre-employment and orientation at no cost to the district for the ESY 2020-2021, 2021-2022 school year and ESY 2022, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**DISCUSSION:**

Mr. O’Shea stated there was a question on F-24 and I’ll ask Mrs. Koon to explain. Mrs. Koon stated F-24 – approval of the POS system for our food service department. We are transitioning into PaySchools which is replacing MySchoolBucks. The reason is the district wanted to absorb the administrative costs so that when the parents pay, the money goes directly to the students’ accounts. With PaySchools there is a charge of \$1.75 for ACH payments and 3.9% for credit card payments. Mrs. Regis-Darby wanted to know what that cost would look like. We pulled data from the last two years and it was skewed by COVID so we didn’t have the utilization we were looking at so we went back two more years to get an average of usage. We will earmark approximately \$20,000 out of the food enterprise fund to absorb those administrative costs for the school year 2021-2022. We are hoping to advertise and promote because we want to become a cashless district as much as possible.

**AYE:** Mrs. Brens-Watson, Dr. Francis, Mrs. Minneci, Dr. Morgan, Mr. O’Shea,  
Mrs. Regis-Darby, Mrs. Williams, Mr. McDowell

**NAY:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**MOTION CARRIED**



The following resolutions were walked onto the agenda.

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following resolutions were moved by Mr. O’Shea, seconded by Mrs. Williams for adoption:

**F-31. APPROVE SUBMISSION OF SFY 2022 IDEA-B GRANT**

Approve the submission of the SFY 2022 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act-B (IDEA\_B) grant application to the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) by July 16, 2021.

**F-32. APPROVE ACCEPTANCE OF THE SFY 2022 IDEA-B GRANT**

Approve the acceptance of the SFY 2022 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act-B (IDEA-B) grant for the FY 2021-2022 school year as follows: (a) Basic - \$1,848,819 and (b) Pre-School - \$56,905.

**DISCUSSION:**

None

**AYE:** Mrs. Brens-Watson, Dr. Francis, Mrs. Minneci, Dr. Morgan, Mr. O’Shea, Mrs. Regis-Darby, Mrs. Williams, Mr. McDowell

**NAY:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Operations Committee Resolutions:**

Mr. Benaquista stated we talked about the theater project last week and we were going to hold off on it until we got a true analysis of the cost to the district. We asked that O-10 be tabled or pulled.

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following resolution was moved by Dr. Francis, seconded by Mrs. Minneci to be tabled until the July Board meeting:

**O-10. APPROVE REQUEST FROM THE THEATER PROJECT**

Approve request from Mark Spina, Director of The Theater Project, requesting the use of Connecticut Farms School for the 2022 Summer Theater Project, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes. (*Agenda item tabled until July 20, 2021 mtg*).

**DISCUSSION:**

None

**AYE:** Mrs. Brens-Watson, Dr. Francis, Mrs. Minneci, Dr. Morgan, Mr. O’Shea, Mrs. Regis-Darby, Mrs. Williams, Mr. McDowell

**NAY:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**MOTION CARRIED**

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following resolutions were moved by Dr. Francis, seconded by Mr. O'Shea for the Board's consideration:

**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 bus evacuation reports for the 2020-2021 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**O-2. APPROVE PARTICIPATION IN NON-BINDING COOPERATIVE PURCHASE AGREEMENTS**

Approve the district's participation in non-binding cooperative purchasing agreements for the 2021-2022 school year with the following:

1. Educational Data Services, Inc., 236 Midland Avenue, Saddlebrook, NJ
2. Hunterdon County ESC Cooperative Purchasing, 51 Sawmill Road, Lebanon, NJ
3. Educational Services Commission of New Jersey, 1660 Stelton Road, Piscataway, NJ
4. Somerset County Educational Services Commission, 568 Central Ave, Bridgewater, NJ
5. Sussex County Educational Services, 10 Gail Court, Sparta, NJ
6. Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council, 502 Millbrook Avenue, Randolph, NJ
7. Region 4 ES Interlocal, 7145 West Tidwell, Houston, TX
8. Sourcewell, 202 12<sup>th</sup> Street NE, P.O. Box 219, Staples, MN 56479

**O-3. APPROVE TO RENEW, AWARD OR PERMIT TO EXPIRE**

Pursuant to P.L. 2015, Chapter 47, the Board intends to renew, award or permit to expire, the contracts previously awarded by the Board of Education. These contracts are, have been, and will continue to be in full compliance with all State and federal statutes and regulations; in particular, New Jersey Title 18A:18 et seq., NJA Chapter 23 and Federal Procurement Regulations 2CFR Part 200.317 et seq., in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**O-4. APPROVE TRANSPORTATION SERVICES AGREEMENT – ESSEX REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION**

Approve the Transportation Services Agreement with the Essex Regional Educational Services Commission for the 2021-2022 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**O-5. APPROVE PARTICIPATION IN COORDINATED TRANSPORTATION – MONMOUTH-OCEAN EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION**

Approve resolution for participation in coordinated Transportation with Monmouth-ocean Educational Services Commission for the three (3) year period from April 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**O-6. APPROVE RENTAL FEE SCHEDULE – 2021-2022**

Approve rental fee schedule for charges for the use of school facilities for the 2021-2022 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**O-7. APPROVE HEALTHCARE BROKER**

Approve Willis Towers Watson, as healthcare broker, for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

**O-8. APPROVE TO RENEWAL OF BANKING SERVICES – CONNECT ONE BANK**

Approve the renewal of banking services with Connect One Bank from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 or until the Board authorizes otherwise.

**O-9. APPROVE REQUEST FROM RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

Approve request from the Township of Union Recreation Department requesting the use of a Board of Education bus and driver for a trip to the Prudential Center on Saturday, October 30, 2021 to attend the “Gold Over America Tour”, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**DISCUSSION:**

None

**AYE:** Mrs. Brens-Watson, Dr. Francis, Mrs. Minneci, Dr. Morgan, Mr. O’Shea, Mrs. Regis-Darby, Mrs. Williams, Mr. McDowell

**NAY:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**MOTION CARRIED**

[Personnel Committee Resolutions](#)

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following resolutions were moved by Dr. Francis, seconded by Mrs. Minneci 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. Agenda item tabled at June 8, 2021 worksession (Central Office Resolution).*

**P-3. ACCEPT LETTERS OF RESIGNATION/RETIREMENT**

Accept letters of resignation/retirement from the following staff:

Name	Position	Location	Eff. Date	Reason	Notes
Maria Hrdina	Paraprofessional	KMS	6/30/2021	Retirement	
Sherri Maloney	Paraprofessional	Washington	7/1/2021	Resignation	

Cesar W. Bartolo, Sr.	Custodian	BMS	7/1/2021	Resignation	
Teresa Romeo-Andriulli	Teacher	Battle Hill	12/1/2021	Retirement	Update to Effective Date Only
Danielle Romanyshyn	Teacher	Franklin	5/21/2021	Resignation	
Day'Zah Grinnard	Door greeter	Franklin	5/20/2021	Resignation	

**P-4. APPROVE LEAVES**

Approve leaves for the following staff:

Name	Position	Location	Leave Dates	Leave Type	Notes
Melissa Glenn	1 <sup>st</sup> grade teacher	Hannah Caldwell	Extension through 6/30/2022 Return 9/1/2022	Extension of unpaid/non-FMLA child rearing leave through 6/30/2022	Original leave 1/22/2021
Elaine Nemezio	10-month Secretary	Hannah Caldwell	Extension through 6/30/2021 Return 9/1/2021	Extension of paid medical leave	
Abby Polizzi	1 <sup>st</sup> grade teacher	Battle Hill	Extension through 6/30/2021 Return 9/1/2021	Extension of unpaid FMLA/NJFLA (concurrently)	

**P-5. APPROVE EMPLOYEES FOR REAPPOINTMENT – 2021-2022**

Approve employees on the attached list to be reappointed for the 2021-2022 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**P-6. APPROVE DESIGNATED PERSON – ADA/FACILITY COORDINATOR, IPM COORDINATOR AND AHERA**

Approve reappointment of Barry Loessel, Supervisor of buildings and Grounds, as ADA/Facility Coordinator, IPM coordinator and AHERA designated person for the 2021-2022 school year at no cost to the district.

**P-7. APPROVE STUDENT TEACHERS AND INTERNSHIPS**

Approve student teachers and internships for the years 2021-2022, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**P-8. APPROVE AFFILIATION AGREEMENT – LINCOLN TECHNICAL INSTITUTE**

Approve Affiliation Agreement between Lincoln Technical Institute and the Township of Union Board of Education for the 2021-2022 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

P-9. *Agenda item approved at June 8, 2021 worksession (Job Description-IT Support Specialist)*

P-10. **APPROVE JOB DESCRIPTION – IT MANAGER/NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR**  
Approve Job Description for the position of IT Manager/Network Administrator, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

P-11. **APPROVE DESIGNATION OF BOARD’S AGENTS TO REQUEST STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDS**  
Approve the following resolution to designate the Board’s agent to request State and federal funds:

RESOLVED, the Superintendent of Schools and the Business Administrator/Board Secretary for the Township of Union Board of Education or their designees, be designated as the Board’s agents to request state and federal funds under the existing State and Federal Laws for the 2021-2022 school year.

P-12. **APPROVE SUBSTITUTE LISTS**  
Approve Substitute Lists for the 2021-2022 school year in accordance with the information in the hands of each Board.

DISCUSSION:  
None

AYE: Mrs. Brens-Watson, Dr. Francis, Mrs. Minneci, Dr. Morgan, Mr. O’Shea,  
Mrs. Regis-Darby, Mrs. Williams, Mr. McDowell

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Mrs. Minneci (P-5)

**MOTION CARRIED**

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following resolution was moved by Dr. Francis, seconded by Mrs. Williams for adoption:

P-13. **APPROVE JOB DESCRIPTION – DIRECTOR OF INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY**

Approve Job Description for the position of Director of Instructional Technology, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. O’Shea stated this is what you spoke about at the worksession. Mr. Benaquista stated correct, it will be a change in title to separate responsibilities – a clearer understanding of who is handling responsibilities in the IT Department.

AYE: Mrs. Brens-Watson, Dr. Francis, Mrs. Minneci, Dr. Morgan, Mr. O’Shea,  
Mrs. Regis-Darby, Mrs. Williams, Mr. McDowell

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

The following item was walked on to the agenda:

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following resolution was moved by Dr. Francis, seconded by Mr. O’Shea for adoption:

**APPROVE TITLE CHANGE (P-1A Admin)**

Approve the title change of Craig Wojcik to Director of Instructional Technology (no salary change).

**DISCUSSION:**

None

**AYE:** Mrs. Brens-Watson, Dr. Francis, Mrs. Minneci, Dr. Morgan, Mr. O’Shea,  
Mrs. Regis-Darby, Mrs. Williams, Mr. McDowell

**NAY:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Technology Committee:**

Mrs. Regis-Darby stated that only the 12<sup>th</sup> graders have to hand in their Chromebooks. All other students can keep them over the summer. Parents please keep those Chromebooks safe during the summer.

**Approval of Bills:**

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and moved by Mr. McDowell, seconded by Mrs. Minneci, 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:** Mrs. Brens-Watson, Dr. Francis, Mrs. Minneci, Dr. Morgan, Mr. O’Shea,  
Mrs. Regis-Darby, Mrs. Williams, Mr. McDowell

**NAY:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Unfinished Business:**

Mrs. Williams stated attended Once on this Island – presentation was amazing and we should be proud of our students and the theater program. Mr. McDowell stated the show was terrific. I also had my car washed and the kids were having a lot of fun.

Mrs. Minneci stated I just want to thank Mr. Benaquista for all he has done in the last six months and all the hard work you have done previously. I appreciate everything you have done.

### New Business:

Mrs. Regis-Darby stated the counseling department is hosting a lunch and learn tomorrow for all the 11<sup>th</sup> graders that are going to become seniors next year. They will be talking about how the 11<sup>th</sup> graders should start making a list of their college choices, how to start working on the letter of recommendation, the SAT/ACT scholarships, financial opportunities and scholarships.

Dr. Francis stated last night was a fall information athletic night held on the football field. It was the fall coaches for football, soccer, field hockey, gymnastics and it was good to see the turnout of students coming out for the information for the fall sports. Not only were the students there, the parents were there. It was good to see that and I wanted to say Mrs. Ionta did a good job and thank you.

### Comments from the Public:

Ann Margaret Shannon stated we have a great week coming up. I am pleased to share that the UTEA is involved in community events. I also want to thank Mr. Benquista for his leadership over the past 10 months. The UTEA has donated \$8,000 to scholarships and it is something that we are proud of. We did donate \$5,000 for the senior prom because we wanted to make sure our kids had a great event. On June 11<sup>th</sup> the UTEA delivered hot lunches from Café Z to the workers at the Union County COVID center at Kean University. I want to thank Mr. McDowell for attending. This Friday the UTEA is sponsoring an event called Union Leads – we are up to 140 students so that will be on the practice football field. Union High School students, the Library Book Club and the Athletic Department will be reading to our elementary school students and every student will go home with a book and goodies. The really big news is this Saturday, the UTEA is the main sponsor to the first township Juneteenth Celebration at Rabkin Park. UHS teacher Reema Patel and the UTEA Social Justice Committee will distribute UTEA welcome bags to all participants, collect can goods for the Township Food Pantry and have a discussion about curriculum and Juneteenth. Mr. Singletary will start the day by leading the choir of adults and students by singing the Black National Anthem. UHS counselor Pat Bridges (inaudible) where the elementary school students will go home with a book about Juneteenth. There will be over 40 vendors. UHS art teachers Nancy Miller and Leslie Jenkins will have their own art tent. Burnet teacher Joseph Costello will show a video of the significance of Juneteenth.

Jill Hall stated I would like you to consider giving some direction to our student liaisons for next year. I feel like that they may have more to say and I don't think they totally understand on what we would like from them. Give them some guidance questions to direct them. I think it would be helpful to them.

Any body who has been in my office has seen a quote that says “Kites Fly Highest Against the Wind” and I think we have proven on every single level that is the absolute truth. Our kids have soared, our faculty, our staff, this Board, Central Office – we have navigated through the most unprecedented and unimaginable situation. I think it is time for us to take a breath. All of our teachers really deserve to understand that in this time when things have been so difficult that the best of the best really comes to the service and we are proud of that. I want to thank all of you for that. It starts at the top and that is Mr. Benaquista; my deepest gratitude

and professional and personal thank you. You have never lost sight of the vision of what your job had to do and you did it with integrity and without becoming exhausted.

Kathleen Brunsmeyer stated I'm so happy I followed Jill Hall about the students all rising through challenges and the staff and administration and everyone. As a staff member I agree on everything she has said. I wanted to do a shout out to my class, the pre-k class, who shared the pledge of allegiance tonight. I am so proud of everything that they have accomplished this year in this unprecedented year. They have done an amazing job and their parents. I am so proud of them and thank you to the Board of Ed, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Benaquista for allowing them to share their pledge of allegiance with everyone.

David Arminio stated thank you to Mr. Benaquista. I would also like to point out that the Union Library is having a summer reading program for students and adults. If you are interested contact the library. I would like to recognize the Union Township Historical Society at their presentation at Connecticut Farms last week telling the students at Connecticut Farms about the history of the name of their school and all the historical events that happened on their streets. My personal congratulations to Mr. Benaquista; thank you for all you have done for Union and the students of our district. Finally don't forget our retired teachers, the ones that are retiring – to recognize the contributions that they have given for so many years of dedicated service to our schools.

Elsie Mackey stated thank you Mr. Benaquista for everything. We are all appreciative and we know what you went through and have accomplished. I want to ask a question of the legal team, we have Afshan and she is amazing. She handles this Board very well. I know that the Board feels that the lawyers work for them but the lawyer really works for the community. If you are swapping out lawyers, as a community we deserve to know why. In terms of finances, Mr. O'Shea and Mrs. Koon you are doing an amazing job. I thought in the past it has been ineffective. I would appreciate if we could really change the narrative of making it sound like special education is the bulk of the problem. I'm not saying it is the both of you but when we have questions about why we are having IEPs in the summer time, it puts a damper on where the direction is going or if it is a goal of the Board to bring students back; bring them back to what? I think we need to move away from that. We need to have more clarity. To the Board at large, (inaudible) you have a Board that can't do anything for special ed services that is the job of the superintendent, then why are you there. If you are not going to be an agent of change, why are you there. (inaudible) hands with minutes of various meetings can help me understand why you guys don't do enough for the disability population in our school district. We have a huge population out there and not enough has been done. If you want to be a member of the Board, be an agent for change.

Paul Casey stated thank you Mr. Benaquista for guiding us through the last six months. You have done a great job and we are happy to be where we are. I also wanted to thank Mr. Benaquista and the Board for taking on the additional funding for those 14 teachers. I hope that moving forward you can find ways so that doesn't happen over and over again. I wanted to say publicly (inaudible) recognizing Juneteenth for the first time this year as a federal holiday. Here in Union we still have a school named after a slave holder; that is not recognition of the black community here in Union and we should make every effort to change the name of Jefferson



School. I want to implore the Board to make a change and it shouldn't be that difficult and it will send a message to our community that we are truly about inclusion and I'm asking the Board to consider that; that is a visible thing that can be done soon. Getting more black educators in our district will take time and over years but changing the name of Jefferson School is something that will be more representative of our community and be done quickly. I ask the Board to consider that and I hope everybody has a great summer.

Vito Nufrio read the following statement:

“Good evening everyone. My name is Vito Nufrio. I want to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Benaquista for showing this school district what a true leader is, through his unrelenting work ethics and dedication to our children and staff—especially during the most difficult time, replete with unprecedented obstacles and challenges that would have intimidated most others, given the short term and controversies that preceded his appointment by a Board, who, unfortunately, is still controlled by some individuals and Board Members, as unacceptable as it is, who aspire to fulfill their own personal motives and agendas-- irrespective of the impact and fallout it perpetuates.

In my 50+ years of experience in public education and all those who I have worked with, I can, without reservation state that, Mr. Benaquista has surpassed most, by his devotion, dedication and sincere love for our children, our staff and our community. He has skillfully steered our district in the most capable and unwavering direction possible for our children. His sensitivity has been a constant attribute for all to emulate.

All I can say is a heartfelt thank you and God bless you and your family, for your undaunted sacrifice and service.

Finally, to Dr. Taylor: Best wishes in your new assignment. Transitioning to an unfamiliar district is in itself a major challenge. Fortunately, Mr. Benaquista is giving you a solid platform to work with, as you acclimate to your new surroundings.

Please continue to exhibit the same disposition, sensitivity and transparency that he has exuded during his short but very successful term. You've heard much rhetoric and comments by some, regarding leadership and expectations. I also, will continue to have a watchful eye and discerning opinions to offer as both a longtime resident and decade-long former Board Member, with vast experiences in this profession. Thank you all for your attention.”

Faith Olayinka stated congratulations to the softball team for winning the Mountainside Championship Division. We are very proud of them.

Steven Le stated I want to express my thanks and gratitude to Mr. Benaquista for the time he served as Acting Superintendent of our school district. He did the job of three people ever

since Mr. Tatum and Mrs. Moses retired. (inaudible) from the contributions and impact Mr. Benaquista has brought forth to this school district. Through some quotes I got from the community survey for the superintendent search – there are so many. “I believe (inaudible) Mr. Benaquista as Interim Superintendent of Schools. Since Mr. Benaquista has come on board the morale of teachers, staff, students and our community is at a high. He made an effort to reach out to staff. Mr. Benaquista has shown that he is ready and prepared to lead our district in the right direction. His leadership thus far has made a difference in our school and community.” Another quote, “The most significant strength and achievement is the great communication between everyone. Mr. Benaquista has been amazing. He has shown great leadership skills and strategic thinking and doing what is best for the students of Union Public Schools. Mr. Benaquista has also shown that he had the students’ best interest in mind. (inaudible) leadership team and emails. He has been very hands on with the reopening plan and supports the teachers and staff. I have never experienced that level of support from other superintendents.” Mr. Benaquista, I would like to thank you again for the hard work that you have put forth not just for the previous 6-9 months in your role of acting and interim but also for the work you put forth before. I think all these comments from the community survey that had gone out a couple of months ago has really demonstrated the impact and contributions, acknowledge from teachers, staff, community members, parents, community advocates.

Susan Lipstein stated the Education Foundation is planning a reception in October; hopefully the community can attend and we are inviting staff, Mr. Benaquista and the front office and the Board of Education. It will be a chance to showcase the teachers and what they do with their grants. We look forward to a great year.

Mr. McDowell stepped out of meeting prior to adjournment.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:**

There being no further business before the Board in public session it was moved by Mr. O’Shea, seconded by Dr. Morgan, that the meeting be adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

**AYE:** Mrs. Brens-Watson, Dr. Francis, Mrs. Minneci, Dr. Morgan, Mr. O’Shea,  
Mrs. Regis-Darby, Mrs. Williams

**NAY:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,**

**YOLANDA KOON  
BOARD SECRETARY**

