

TOWNSHIP OF UNION BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING AND BUDGET HEARING MINUTES – April 27, 2021

NOTICE OF MEETING:

TO ALL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS:

The regular meeting/budget hearing of the Board of Education of the Township of Union was held on Tuesday, April 27, 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 could attend in person or via Zoom.

Mr. McDowell called the meeting to order at 7:16 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, Mrs. Sandra Paul, Mrs. Maureen Guilfoyle (via Zoom), Mr. Craig Wojcik

ALSO PRESENT:

Mr. Lester Taylor, Esq.

Mr. O’Shea led the Board and audience members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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.

Mrs. Minneci read the District’s mission statement.

COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC ON RESOLUTIONS:

Mr. Monge stated just a follow-up to my question last week on F-17 (technical difficulties). Mr. McDowell stated Mr. Monge, I think your question was about the budget and F-17, you need to talk with our business administrator – send the BA or me an email with your question/comment.

Approval of Minutes:

Moved by Mrs. Brens-Watson, seconded by Mrs. Minneci, that the following minutes be approved:

1. February 9, 2021 – worksession

2. February 9, 2021 – executive session
3. February 16, 2021 – regular meeting
4. February 16, 2021 – executive session
5. February 18, 2021 – special meeting – ethics
6. February 18, 2021 – planning meeting

**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:** Dr. Francis (#5), Mrs. Williams (#1 and #2)

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Communications:**

**REQUEST FROM TOWNSHIP OF UNION EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

Letter from Township of Union Education Foundation requesting to use the playground at Livingston Elementary School for painting fundraiser on May 20, 2021 (rain date May 27, 2021) and also requesting the use of tables and chairs for the fundraiser.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE – FILIPPONE**

Requests for paid child rearing leave followed by unpaid FMLA/NJFLA (concurrently) from Nicole Filippone, special education teacher-Hannah Caldwell Elementary School, September 1, 2021-January 2, 2022.

**REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF LEAVE – D’ALOIA**

Request for extension of paid medical leave from Mark D’Aloia, computer science teacher-Hannah Caldwell Elementary School, new return date September 1, 2021.

**REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF LEAVE – HOCTOR**

Request for extension of unpaid FMLA/NJFLA from Deirdre Hactor, special education teacher-Union High School, new return date June 1, 2021.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE – KMET DIAZ**

Request for paid medical leave followed by unpaid FMLA leave from Suzanne Kmet Diaz, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher-Washington Elementary School, April 6, 2021-June 24, 2021.

**REQUEST FOR INTERMITTENT LEAVE – LANG**

Request for intermittent FMLA from Phyllis Lang, 12-month secretary-Union High School Athletics Department, March 22, 2021-March 21, 2022.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE UPDATE – RAND**

Request for update to paid child rearing leave followed by unpaid FMLA/NJFLA (concurrently) from Tiffany Rand, teacher-Washington Elementary School, April 15, 2021-December 31, 2021.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE – RIVERA**

Request for paid child rearing leave followed by unpaid FMLA/NJFLA (concurrently) from Catherine Rivera, school counselor-Union High School, June 11, 2021-December 12, 2021.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE – VILLARINO**

Request for paid child rearing leave followed by unpaid FMLA/NJFLA (concurrently) from Darcy Villarino, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher-Connecticut Farms Elementary School, May 21, 2021-June 30, 2021.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE – OSEI-TUTU**

Request for unpaid FMLA from Kwaku Osei-TuTu, history teacher-Union High School, March 16, 2021-June 24, 2021.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE – WATSON**

Request for FMLA/NJLA from Danielle Watson, pre-k paraprofessional-Hannah Caldwell Elementary School, March 15, 2021-June 24, 2021.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE – SANCHEZ**

Request for paid medical leave followed by unpaid FMLA leave from Nichol A. Sanchez, teacher-Hannah Caldwell Elementary School, April 12, 2021-June 24, 2021.

**LETTER OF RETIREMENT – BUGGY**

Letter of resignation, for the purpose of retirement, from Anne Buggy, school nurse-Franklin Elementary School, effective June 30, 2021.

**LETTER OF RESIGNATION – CRESPO**

Letter of resignation from Justin Crespo, bus aide-Transportation Department, effective March 5, 2021.

**LETTER OF RETIREMENT – CHURUS**

Letter of resignation, for the purpose of retirement, from Joyce Churus, media clerk-Kawameeh Middle School, effective July 1, 2021.

**LETTER OF RETIREMENT – DOMBROWSKI**

Letter of resignation, for the purpose of retirement, from Kathleen Dombrowski, paraprofessional-Union High School, effective July 1, 2021.

**LETTER OF RESIGNATION – HERNANDEZ**

Letter of resignation from Judith Hernandez, cafeteria aide-Hannah Caldwell Elementary School, effective March 6, 2021.

**LETTER OF RETIREMENT – LORENZO**

Letter of resignation, for the purpose of retirement, from Susan Lorenzo, health and physical education teacher-Kawameeh Middle School, effective July 1, 2021.

**LETETER OF RETIREMENT – MASSARELLI**

Letter of resignation, for the purpose of retirement, from Richard Massarelli, science teacher-Union High School, effective July 1, 2021.

**LETTER OF RETIREMENT – McGOVERN**

Letter of resignation, for the purpose of retirement, from Monica McGovern, school social worker-Franklin Elementary School, effective July 1, 2021.

**LETTER OF RETIREMENT – MONAGHAN**

Letter of resignation, for the purpose of retirement, from Jill Monaghan, teacher-Jefferson School, effective June 30, 2021.

**LETTER OF RETIREMENT – MONIZ**

Letter of resignation, for the purpose of retirement, from Louise Moniz, paraprofessional-special services-Battle Hill Elementary School, effective July 1, 2021.

**LETTER OF RETIREMENT – NICHOLLS**

Letter of resignation, for the purpose of retirement, from Barbara Nicholls, teacher-Jefferson School, effective June 30, 2021.

**LETTER OF RESIGNATION – WAGNER**

Letter of resignation from Yeimy Wagner, bus aide-Transportation Department, effective March 5, 2021.

**LETTER OF RETIREMENT – SALVATORE**

Letter of resignation, for the purpose of retirement, from Jean Salvatore, cosmetology teacher-Union High School, effective December 31, 2021.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE UPDATE – PARKHURST**

Request for update to paid child rearing leave and unpaid FMLA/NJFLA (concurrently) followed by non-FMLA/non-NJFLA leave from Jennifer Parkhurst, school counselor-Connecticut Farms Elementary School, March 24, 2021-April 4, 2022.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE EXTENSION – WEST**

Request for extension of unpaid non-FMLA child rearing leave from Heather West, science teacher-Kawameeh Middle School, through June 30, 2022.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE EXTENSION – SANTAMARIA**

Request for extension of unpaid FMLA/NJFLA from Maggie SantaMaria, teacher-Franklin Elementary School, through September 30, 2021.

**LETTER OF RESIGNATION – LANGLEY**

Letter of resignation from Nicole Langley, bus driver-Transportation Department, effective April 15, 2021.

**Superintendent's Report:**

Mr. Benaquista stated we will start with the student liaisons.

Joshua Tidwell (sophomore) stated thank you to the Board and staff for the smooth transition for the 4<sup>th</sup> marking period. (via Zoom)

Faith Olayinka (senior) stated thank you Board and staff for working hard for the prom and senior day. Everyone is excited – people liked coming back to school. They missed their teachers and all that. (in person)

Mr. Benaquista stated I'm happy that the students are able to come back, especially our seniors so they can have some kind of normal ending to their senior year. I hope that the seniors will take advantage of anything that we offer. Thank you for all the time you have put in not just as a student liaison but your hard work you have done in school.

Mr. Benaquista presented his Superintendent Report and a summary is set forth below:

- HIB report (see E-1 appended to the minutes)
- Summary of Return to Hybrid Learning Survey (appended to the minutes) – thank you to all who participated
- Teachers of the Year – Susan Lisanti (Battle Hill), Christina Lam (Connecticut Farms), Courtney McCarthy (Franklin), Alexia Moriello (Hannah), Elise Iovine (Livingston), Cheryl Calabrese (Washington), Samantha Formica (Jefferson), Kim Villane (Burnet), Amanda Maxwell (Kawameeh), William Eichert (UHS) – congratulations to all
- UHS graduation – June 26, 2021 – a letter was sent out on Monday
- Results of survey to students regarding graduation – 78% would prefer graduation on one day; 93% prefers in-person graduation; 73% preferred Saturday graduation
- Prom will be at Costa Del Sole – May 27, 2021
- 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Outstanding Scholars Breakfast – May 21, 2021 – valedictorian-Dylan DeFelipe and Salutatorian-Nicholas Vasquez
- Thank you to Overlook/Atlantic Health for assisting employees to get vaccinated

Mrs. Guilfoyle presented the ESSER II Grant Money usage and future grant money update – a summary is set forth below:

- ESSER Funds - \$2,973,652 – addressing student learning loss, school facility repairs and improvements; projects to improve indoor air quality in school facilities.
- Learning Acceleration - \$190,834 – 75% of those funds will be used to support research-based academic enrichment activities.
- Mental Health Supports and Services - \$45,000 – these funds will support schools in building or enhancing a continuum of school-based mental health services for students
- American Rescue Plan ESSER funds will be forthcoming sometime in May. New Jersey has received the funds from the federal government but has yet to distribute.

Mr. Benaquista stated the timeline to spend is until 2023.

We want to put a lot of emphasis on our ventilation and filtration. We want to make sure parents and students coming back to school feel safe – the classrooms, the environment – they don't have to worry about the ventilation and filtration not being a safe environment. We will meet with experts on how we can adapt our classrooms; what equipment we can put in to make sure people know that the environment is safe and we won't have to worry about the virus spreading throughout that classroom. There is a lot more to come.

Attendance for the month of March is: 96.5% Students; 95.7% Staff.

Next is Mr. Churus on Esports and I believe they won the championship. It is a fast growing sport for the kids.

Eric Churus presented Esports at Burnet Middle School. Last year I was asked to get into the Esports program at Burnet Middle School right before we went into remote learning. One year later I could not be more surprised and proud at where this program has gone. It was challenging but fun starting something new. I'm very grateful for the support from parents, Mrs. Paul, Mr. Shaw, the UTEA and the Board of Education in seeing something and realizing this is the future to getting kids involved. Presentation appended to minutes. The following students spoke via Zoom: Taylor Hodges-Freeland (6), Donovan Jimenez (6), Darian Cancel (7).

Mr. Benaquista stated thank you for highlighting this club; I'm sure it will grow because students are having so much fun. We are very proud of you and the students.

May 24<sup>th</sup> is the UHS senior awards virtual event.

May 1<sup>st</sup> is National Decision Day – we will be celebrating UHS students who have committed to post-high school plans.

Update on pre-k facilities – partnering with YMCA for the 2021-2022 school year; we will continue to look at partnering with other providers for the 2022-2023 school year.

Summer programs – camp invention; bridge for accelerated learning/Title I Program Descriptions; ESY – all summer programs will be hybrid (appended to minutes)

April's Newsletter was sent out. And it highlights activities going on in our classrooms (appended to minutes).

Assessment updates – 2019-2020 School Performance Report (appended to minutes).

UHS Key Club – in honoring World Autism Awareness Day had their members/students bring about awareness for those with autism.

UHSPAC play – May 20-23 - tickets on sale now.

Three young artists from Union received awards from NJPTA Reflections Program:

- Award of Excellence – Jared Suggs for his “Midnight Blur” photo
- Award of Merit - Michael Cross for his “End of Season” photo
- Honorable Mention – Sydney Webb for her “I Matter” photo

Marching Band carwash – May 23, 2021

Relay for Life scheduled for June 5<sup>th</sup> has been postponed due to current environment per the recommendation of the American Cancer Society.

End of the year guidance, I hopefully it will get less restrictive for our end of the year activities. We will work within the guidance.

The Superintendent Report is appended to the minutes.

Mr. McDowell stated glad to see all that activity.

Education/Student Discipline Committee Resolutions:

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

E-1. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT OF HIB

Superintendent’s Report of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) for the period March 17, 2021 to April 27, 2021, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes (*no vote required; for reporting purposes only*).

E-2. APPROVE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

Approve Settlement Agreement for S.P., in accordance with the non-public 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

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 March 31, 2021 be accepted.

F-2. SECRETARY’S REPORT

That the Secretary’s Report dated March 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 March 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
Dated

Yolanda Koon, Board Secretary
Dated

Pursuant to N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.2(h), we certify that as of March 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. *Agenda item approved at April 20, 2021 worksession (district wide travel).*

**F-7. 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/Senior Class	C&R Graphics – banners – Class of 2021	\$1,050.00



Union High School	2227/Senior Class	Prestige Laser Engraving – jerseys for senior class	\$9,348.00
Union High School	2227/Senior Class	2K Printing – senior shirts ordered through fundraiser	\$5,000.00 (not to exceed)
Union High School	2227/Senior Class	Carr Marketing – senior prom	\$50,000.00 (not to exceed)
Union High School	2227/Senior Class	NJ Fun Services – Senior Day Event-Class of 2021	\$50,000.00 (not to exceed)
Union High School	2018/Senior Awards	Policeman’s Benevolent Assoc. – Student TBD	\$1,000.00
Union High School	2018/Senior Awards	Khalid Shahid Memorial Scholarship – Student TBD	\$2,000.00
Union High School	2018/Senior Awards	Khalid Shahid Memorial Scholarship – Student TBD	\$1,000.00
Union High School	2018/Senior Awards	Douglas M. Krueger Memorial Scholarship – Student TBD	\$1,000.00
Union High School	2018/Senior Awards	Wayne Russo Memorial Scholarship – Student TBD	\$2,500.00
Union High School	2018/Senior Awards	Connect One Bank – Student TBD	\$1,000.00
Union High School	2018/Senior Awards	Connecticut Farms Church Heritage Scholarship – Student TBD	\$1,000.00
Union High School	2018/Senior Awards	Vogel Memorial Prize for the Excellence in French – Student TBD	\$1,000.00
Union High School	2018/Senior Awards	Battle Hill PTA -Jason Lopes Memorial Scholarship – Student TBD	\$1,000.00
Union High School	2018/Senior Awards	Battle Hill PTA – Crystal Sretchen Memorial Scholarship – Student TBD	\$1,000.00
Union High School	2018/Senior Awards	Battle Hill PTA Alumni Pillar of Character Scholarship – Student TBD	\$1,000.00
Union High School	2018/Senior Awards	Battle Hill PTA Alumni First Responder Scholarship – Student TBD	\$1,000.00
Union High School	2018/Senior Awards	Union EMS Unit of Union – Student TBD	\$1,000.00
Union High School	2018/Senior Awards	Carol Remondelli – ADK Scholarship – Student TBD	\$1,000.00
Union High School	2227/Senior Class	Outfront Media – Class of 2021 Billboard	\$2,000.00

**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
District Twirl Clinics	September 2021 through June 2022	UHS/Twirling Club – to raise funds for competition entries and equipment
Candy/Lollipop/Fruit Snack Sale	September 2021 through June 2022	UHS/Twirling Club – to raise funds for competition entries and equipment
Student Directed Virtual Production	April 21, 2021 through June 12, 2021	UHS/Advanced Musical Theatre – to raise funds for the Advanced Musical Theatre
Covid-19 Conscious Student Run Car Wash	May 2 and June 13, 2021	UHS/Advanced Musical Theater Class and UHSPAC – to raise funds for the Advanced Musical Theater Class/Show and UHSPAC
Virtual Kid Dance Party Class	April through June 2021	UHS/Advanced Musical Theater Class and UHSPAC – to raise funds for the Advanced Musical Theater Class/Show and UHSPAC
Poppin Popcorn	April through June 2021	UHS/Advanced Musical Theater Class and UHSPAC – to raise funds for the Advanced Musical Theater Class/Show and UHSPAC
Virtual Talent Show	April 2021 and June 2021	UHS/Advanced Musical Theater Class and UHSPAC – to raise funds for the Advanced Musical Theater Class/Show and UHSPAC
Graduation Stoles Fundraiser	April 15 – May 15, 2021	UHS/Empowerment Club – to raise funds for the purchase of graduation stoles for the members of the Empowerment Club
Concessions	May 20-23, 2021	UHS/UHSPAC – to raise funds to cover the production costs of Once on this Island
T-shirt/sticker Sale	May 12-June 15, 2021	UHS/National Art Honor Society – to raise funds for senior scholarships
Juneteenth Bake Sale	April 30, 2021	UHS/Roots: Black Excellence Club – to raise funds for Juneteenth Celebration
Juneteenth Apparel Sale	April 26, 2021	UHS/Roots: Black Excellence Club – to raise funds for Juneteenth Celebration

**F-12. ACCEPT DONATIONS**

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

From	For Use By	\$/Item
Lifetouch National School Studios	Washington Elementary School	\$329.89
Laure Deen	Union High School	Laure Deen’s book “Keeps Breaking Up with Me” – 30 hard copies

**F-13. APPROVE DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS – UHS SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**

Approve distribution of funds from the following Union High School Senior Scholarship Awards: (a) \$100 – Dora D. Feins Achievement Awards Fund, (b) \$90 – Dora D. Feins Achievement Awards Fund (cost of two plaques), (c) \$100 – Myrtle V. Hassey Awards Fund (two awards - \$50 each), (d) \$1,500 – Bob O’Dell Scholarship Fund (two awards - \$750 each), (e) \$1,500 – Ellen S. Rever Memorial Scholarship Fund (three awards - \$500 each), (f) \$1,000 - Anna Zofay Slobodanyk Memorial Fund (two awards - \$500 each).

**F-14. APPROVE PETTY CASH FUND FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR**

Approve the Board Secretary petty cash fund for the 2021-2022 school year: Fund-Board Secretary, Amount: \$500 per month; Responsible Party: Board Secretary.

**F-15. APPROVE GENERAL FUND TAX LEVY**

Approve the General Fund tax levy of \$95,524,677 in the 2021-2022 school year (includes use of banked cap), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-16. APPROVE TRAVEL EXPENDITURE MAXIMUM**

Approve Travel Expenditure Maximum (not to exceed \$85,000) for the 2021-2022 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-17. APPROVE ESTABLISHING A MAXIMUM DOLLAR LIMIT – PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

Approve establishing a maximum dollar limit for professional services (\$3,025,804), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-18. APPROVE USE OF EXCESS SURPLUS FUNDS**

Approve the Board of Education to include in the General Fund Budget \$1,692,313 of the Board of Education's excess surplus funds (@ 6/30/20 per audit) to help reduce the local tax levy.

**F-19. APPROVE USE OF BANKED CAP**

Approve in the final budget the adjustment for banked cap in the amount of \$253,531, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-10.3(b). The District has fully exhausted all eligible statutory spending authority. The adjustment will be used for instructional supplies and materials and will complete this by June 30, 2022 and acknowledges that it cannot be deferred or incrementally completed over a longer period of time.

**F-20. APPROVE APPLICATION OF 2021 NJSIG SAFETY GRANT - \$31,665.00**

Approve application of 2021 NJSIG Safety Grant in the amount of \$31,665.00.

**F-21. APPROVE EARLY CHILDHOOD PRESCHOOL BUDGET – 2021-2022**

Approve resolution approving early childhood preschool budget for the 2021-2022 school year in the amount of \$5,658,641.00, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-22. APPROVE AUDITORS TO PERFORM MINI AUDIT**

Approve auditors, Suplee & Clooney, to perform a mini audit on financials, in an amount not to exceed \$4,000.00, to assist/predict fund balance for contributions to Capital Reserves, Emergency Reserve and Maintenance Reserve accounts.

**F-23. APPROVE MORRIS PSYCHOLOGICAL GROUP – EVALUATIONS**

Approve Morris Psychological Group for neuropsychological evaluation at the rate of \$3,250.00 which includes diagnostic intake/parent interview, neuropsychological testing

evaluation services, neuropsychological test administration and scoring, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes [Acct. # 11-000-219-320-01-19].

**F-24. APPROVE SILVERGATE PREP – BEDSIDE INSTRUCTION**

Approve teachers employed through Silvergate Prep to provide bedside instruction for district students at the rates of \$50.00 per hour on an “as needed” basis for the 2020-2021 school year (not to exceed \$2,000.00), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes [Acct. #7693/11-150-100-320-01-19].

**F-25. APPROVE BATTLE HILL AND HAMILTON – ESY**

Approve Battle Hill Elementary School (July 2021) and Hamilton Building (July 1-August 31, 2021) for the Extended School Year Program (ESY), ESY services, CST testing and/or home instruction.

**F-26. APPROVE INCREASE IN EXPENDITURES – KID CLAN SERVICES**

Approve increase to the total expenditures for Kid Clan Services to conduct the occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech language evaluations for the district students to \$72,500.00 for the 2020-21 school year. The cost of each evaluation is as follows: \$370.00 for occupational therapy, \$370.00 for physical therapy and \$335.00 for speech and language [Acct. #11-000-219-320-01-19].

**F-27. APPROVE INCREASE IN EXPENDITURES – KID CLAN SERVICES**

Approve increase to the total expenditures for Kid Clan Services to conduct the psychological and educational evaluations for the district students to \$174,000.00 for the 2020-2021 school year (\$400 per evaluation) [Acct. #11-000-219320-01-19].

**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.

**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**

**Grievance/Negotiations Committee:**

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

**G-1. APPROVE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT – ACMTE**

Approve Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) between the Township of Union Board of Education and the Association of Custodial, Maintenance and Transportation Employees (ACMTE), 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**

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

**G-2. APPROVE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING-UTEA – SICK LEAVE BANK**

Approve Memorandum of Understanding by and between the Township of Union Board of Education and the Union Township Education Association (UTEA), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**DISCUSSION:**

Mrs. Minneci asked if she could vote on G-2. Mr. Taylor stated you should abstain.

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

**NAY:** None

**ABSTAIN:** Mrs. Minneci

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Operations Committee Resolutions:**

Dr. Francis stated he would like to make a motion to table O-4 – Award Contract for Roofing.

Mr. Taylor stated can we modify the motion to reference that it will be tabled until a special meeting is scheduled and/or the next regular board meeting but the intent is to schedule a special meeting sooner rather than later in the next week or two.

Generally speaking, this was a bid and I can’t say much in public because it is subject to potential litigation. There were some procedural challenges raised by numerous bidders. The administration and legal counsel need to meet the engineer for the district to review the bid specifications, documents prior to recommending the award of this bid.

Moved by Dr. Francis, seconded by Mrs. Brens-Watson that O-4 – Award Contract for Roofing be tabled for a future meeting.

**DISCUSSION:**

Mr. Taylor stated there is potential litigation.

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

O-2. APPROVE NOTIFICATION OF ASSET CHANGE OF STATUS

Approve the Notification of Asset Change of Status for disposal of Fargo ID Card Machine in UHS/Attendance Office, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

O-3. APPROVE CAMP INVENTION – JEFFERSON SCHOOL

Approve the Summer Programs Camp Invention to be held at Jefferson School (hybrid): August 2-4, 2021 – 8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

O-4. *Agenda item tabled to next meeting (award contract-roofing)*

O-5. APPROVE ESTABLISHMENT OF PHASE II ESIP ACCOUNT

Approve the establishment of the Capital Outlay-Phase II ESIP Account at Connect One Bank for Phase II ESIP funds of the Township of Union Board of Education.

O-6. REQUEST FROM TOWNSHIP OF UNION EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Letter from Township of Union Education Foundation requesting to use the playground at Livingston Elementary School for painting fundraiser on May 20, 2021 (rain date May 27, 2021) and also requesting the use of tables and chairs for the fundraiser, 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 Mr. O'Shea, 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 ATTENDANCE – DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL SERVICES**

Approve Kim Conti, Director of Special Services, to attend The Americans with Disabilities Committee meetings at no cost to the district for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years.

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

Accept letters of resignation/retirement from the following staff:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Eff. Date</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Notes/ Corrections</u>
Anne Buggy	School Nurse	Franklin Elementary	6/30/2021	Retirement	
Justin Crespo	Bus Aide	Transportation	3/5/2021	Resignation	
Joyce Churus	Media Clerk	Kawameeh Middle School	7/1/2021	Retirement	
Kathleen Dombrowski	Paraprofessional	Union High School	7/1/2021	Retirement	
Judith Hernandez	Cafeteria Aide	Hannah Caldwell Elementary	3/6/2021	Resignation	
Susan Lorenzo	Teacher of Health & Physical Education	Kawameeh Middle School	7/1/2021	Retirement	
Richard Massarelli	Teacher of Science	Union High School	7/1/2021	Retirement	
Monica McGovern	School Social Worker	Franklin Elementary	7/1/2021	Retirement	

Jill Monaghan	Elementary Teacher	Jefferson Elementary	6/30/2021	Retirement	
Louise Moniz	Paraprofessional -SS	Battle Hill Elementary	7/1/2021	Retirement	
Barbara Nicholls	Elementary Teacher	Jefferson Elementary	6/30/2021	Retirement	
Jean Salvatore	Cosmetology Teacher	UHS	12/31/2021	Retirement	
Yeimy Wagner	Bus Aide	Transportation	3/5/2021	Resignation	
Nicole Langley	Bus Driver	Transportation	4/15/2021	Resignation	

**P-4. APPROVE LEAVES**

Approve leaves for the following staff:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Leave Dates</b>	<b>Leave Type</b>	<b>Notes/ Corrections: All tentative approvals are pending required documentation.</b>
Nicole Filippone	Teacher of Special Education	Hannah Caldwell Elementary	9/1/2021-1/2/2022 Return 1/3/2022	Paid Child Rearing Leave followed by Unpaid FMLA/NJFLA (Concurrently)	FMLA/NJFLA (Concurrently) entitlement not to exceed 12 weeks.
Mark D'Aloia	Teacher of Computer Science	Hannah Caldwell Elementary	Extension through 6/30/2021 Return 9/1/2021	Extension of Paid Medical Leave	Org. leave began 1/14/2021
Deirdre Hctor	Teacher of Special Education	Union High School	Extension Return 6/1/2021	Extension of Unpaid FMLA/NJFLA Return 6/1/2021	FMLA/NJFLA (Concurrently) entitlement not to exceed 12 weeks.



Suzanne Kmet Diaz	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher	Washington Elementary	4/6/2021-6/24/2021 Return: 9/1/21	Paid Medical Leave followed by Unpaid FMLA Leave	FMLA-entitlement not to exceed 12 weeks.
Phyllis Lang	12 Month Secretary	Union High School-Athletics Dept.	3/22/2021-3/21/2022	Intermittent FMLA	FMLA-entitlement not to exceed 12 weeks.
Kwaku Osei-TuTu	Teacher of History	Union High School	3/16/2021-6/24/2021	Unpaid FMLA	FMLA-entitlement not to exceed 12 weeks.
Tiffany Rand	Elementary Teacher	Washington Elementary	4/15/21-12/31/21	Update to Paid Child Rearing Leave followed by Unpaid FMLA/ NJFLA (Concurrently)	FMLA/NJFLA (Concurrently) entitlement not to exceed 12 weeks.
Catherine Rivera	School Counselor	Union High School	6/11/2021-12/12/2021 Return: 12/13/2021	Paid Child Rearing Leave followed by Unpaid FMLA/ NJFLA (Concurrently)	FMLA/NJFLA (Concurrently) entitlement not to exceed 12 weeks.
Nichol A. Sanchez	Elementary Teacher	Hannah Caldwell Elementary	4/12/2021-6/24/2021	Paid Medical followed by Unpaid FMLA Leave	FMLA-entitlement not to exceed 12 weeks.
Darcy Villarino	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher	Connecticut Farms Elementary	5/21/21-6/30/2021 Return 9/1/2021	Paid Child Rearing Leave followed by Unpaid FMLA/ NJFLA (Concurrently)	FMLA/NJFLA (Concurrently) entitlement not to exceed 12 weeks.
Danielle Watson	Pre-K Paraprofessional	Hannah Caldwell Elementary	3/15/2021-6/24/2021	FMLA/NJFLA	FMLA/NJFLA (Concurrently) entitlement not to exceed 12 weeks.

Jennifer Parkhurst	School Counselor	Connecticut Farms Elementary School	Update only 3/24/2021-4/4/2022	Paid child rearing leave and unpaid FMLA/NJFLA (concurrently) followed by non-FMLA/non-NJFLA	FMLA/NJFLA (concurrently) entitlement not to exceed 12 weeks
Heather West	Teacher of Science	KMS	Extension through 6/30/2022; return 9/1/2022	Extension of unpaid non-FMLA/non-NJFLA child rearing leave	Leave began 6/1/2020
Maggie SantaMaria	Elementary Teacher	Franklin	Extension through 9/30/2021; return 10/1/2021	Extension of unpaid FMLA/NJFLA (concurrently)	Leave began 3/8/2021

**P-5. APPROVE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION OFFICERS – 2021-2022**

Approve Affirmative Action Officers for the 2021-2022 school year, at no cost to the district, as follows: Gerry Benaquista as Affirmative Action Officer; Lauren Walker as Assistant Affirmative Action Officer and Benjamin Kloc as Affirmative Action Officer for classroom practices.

**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**

**Policy Committee:**

*POL-1. Agenda item approved at April 20, 2021 worksession (Policy 1648-Restart and Recovery Plan).*

*POL-2. Agenda item approved at April 20, 2021 worksession (Policy 1648.02-Remote Learning Options for Families)*

*POL-3. Agenda item approved at April 20, 2021 worksession (Policy 1648.03-Restart and Recovery Plan-Full-Time Remote Instruction).*

**Technology Committee:**

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

**T-1. APPROVE DISTRICT INTERNET/INTRANET ISP – ALTICE/LIGHTPATH**

Approve Altice/Lightpath as the district’s internet/intranet ISP, for the period from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, in an amount not to exceed \$58,140.00, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**T-2. APPROVE THIRD PARTY TECHNICAL SERVICES – ASPIRE TECHNOLOGY PARTNERS**

Approve Aspire Technology Partners as the district’s technology third-party technical services provider including network purchasing, for a period from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, in an amount not to exceed \$163,640.93, 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**

**Approval of Bills:**

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, and moved by Mr. McDowell, seconded by Mrs. Brens-Watson, 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:**

None

**New Business:**

Mrs. Williams stated on May 1<sup>st</sup> there is going to be a coffee and cake event with our police department at Cioffi’s Restaurant and the second one will take place on June 5<sup>th</sup> at Conca D’Oro Italian Bakery. On Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup> – come out for the food truck festival at Rabkin Park.

Mrs. Minneci stated also on May 8<sup>th</sup> is Veteran’s Alliance is sponsoring a concert at Hannah Caldwell – the Cameo’s will be there and it is to support our veterans.

Mr. McDowell stated I would like to share something with the Board; a follow-up to the reopening of the schools. I attended Battle Hill School where I met an RTI Donna Cassidy and she told me about the reading contest she does there and at the end she has an award ceremony. This year it was videoed and she sent me a copy of the video and I was amazed by how she performed not just as a teacher but how she does a great job with our students. I will like to read what she has written to me about the program:

“Each year I hold bi-monthly writing contests called MOVING TOWARDS MASTERY in grades 1-4 where the only goal is for the students to write better than the month before-- not outwrite anyone else. I go into each class to do the prewriting with them and then follow up with assistance when necessary. 2 winners in each class-- All-star writing and most creative and the winners are announced in a you tube video and given certificates and prizes.

Some of topics this month included- researching your favorite animal to what would the world be like with no math??!

Winners included Lauren Vigario who wrote all about giraffes, Christian Neto who wrote all about how he stays fit by playing soccer and Sophia Cano who explained how without math we would have no idea how old we are!!

Next month’s writing topics include Wally the Walrus who will be granting wishes to the first graders and poetry regarding your favorite television show in grade 4.

I’m extremely proud of how hard my kids work and so glad they are receiving recognition!!”

I would have shared the video at the meeting but it was 12-13 minutes long. It was really entertaining. I just wanted to recognize her as our RTI reading teacher which is an area I think we really need to focus on – reading. Thank you Mrs. Cassidy.

#### Comments from the Public:

Jill Hall stated I think Faith has a tendency to underestimate her own presence within the building. She is quite extraordinary. She is a very active member of our focus group which is a group of students from grades 9-12. She really is a mover and shaker but she does represent all the student body. The energy that she brings is what we are seeing at the high school. The kids are so happy to be back. There is an energy that is very positive.

May is “mental health awareness month” and we had a year like no other. There is no question that the mental health of students, staff and all of us has been affected. Mental health awareness this year in particular requires special attention. The students in my focus group and the counseling department are committed to creating a platform where students can normalize conversations surrounding health and mental wellness. This has been coming for a long time but

I think with the current situation of the pandemic has really forced us to look hard at how we have conversations about mental health with our kids.

We have a parent program this year; parents are very eager to learn how to start those conversations with their kids and kids are learning that it is o.k. not to be o.k. We are really focusing on putting as much out there as we can on social media, we created a calendar, a self-care that we put up and all of our different platforms. We created a mental health checklist – who can you call? What can you do when you are starting to feel certain types of way? Who are your safe people? We are hoping that this dialogue will continue that and start us on these really complicated conversations that we have to have to keep our kids well and safe and keep our staff and families safe.

Mr. Benaquista stated thank you Ms. Hall for being an integral part but for empowering the students.

Fran Sinno – Thank you Mr. Benaquista for everything you have done and reopening of schools; teachers, students and parents really appreciate it and appreciate all your hard work. The Township is still looking for a superintendent and I think many of us know we already have one. Mr. Benaquista has been with our community and taught our community. He was vice principal and he knows our students and he cares about our students. I wish more people would speak up and he deserves it. I wish everybody would give him the shot he deserves.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:**

There being no further business before the Board in public session it was moved by Mrs. Regis-Darby, seconded by Mr. O’Shea, that the meeting be adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

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**

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,**

**YOLANDA KOON  
BOARD SECRETARY**

