

TOWNSHIP OF UNION BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – MAY 20, 2025

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, May 20, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, Main Meeting Room, 1976 Morris Avenue, Union, New Jersey pursuant to notice sent to each member.

Ms. Carbonell called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:

Ms. Dixiana Carbonell, Mrs. Elsie Conteh-Mackey, Mrs. Guida Faria, Mr. Ronnie McDowell, Mrs. Nancy Minneci, Mr. Greg Nasta, Mrs. Kimberly Scott-Hayden

ABSENT AT ROLL CALL:

Mr. Michael Cohan, Ms. Chastity Santana (arrived 6:23 p.m.)

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Mr. Christopher Buggy, Esq., Student Representative-Mariella Garcia

Mariella Garcia, Student Representative, led the Board and audience members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Nasta read the district's mission statement.

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

MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Moved by Mrs. Scott-Hayden, seconded by Mrs. Minneci, that the Board go into Executive Session at 6:08 p.m. to discuss the following subject matters without the presence of the public in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b: personnel, legal matters.

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

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

AYE: Mrs. Conteh-Mackey, Mrs. Faria, Mr. McDowell,  
Mrs. Minneci, Mr. Nasta, Mrs. Scott-Hayden, Ms. Carbonell

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

The Board returned to public session at 7:04 p.m.

#### MOTION TO RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION:

There being no further business before the Board it was moved by Mrs. Scott-Hayden, seconded by Mrs. Minneci, that the Board return to public session at 7:04 p.m.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

JROTC – presentation of colors.

#### Approval of Minutes:

The following minutes were moved by Ms. Santana, seconded by Mrs. Minneci, for adoption:

1. April 8, 2025 – worksession
2. April 8, 2025 – executive session
3. April 29, 2025 – regular meeting/budget hearing
4. April 29, 2025 – executive session

#### DISCUSSION:

None

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

#### Communications:

##### LETTER OF RESIGNATION – ORSINI

Letter of resignation from Erin Orsini, part-time clerk-Burnet Middle School, effective April 11, 2025.

##### LETTER OF RETIREMENT – PADDEN

Letter of resignation, for the purpose of retirement, from Lisa Padden, 12-month secretary-Union High School, effective July 1, 2025.

LETTER OF RETIREMENT – VANDEWAL

Letter of resignation, for the purpose of retirement, from Gerard Vandewal, health and physical education teacher-Burnet Middle School, effective July 1, 2025.

LETTER OF RETIREMENT – YAWNICK

Letter of resignation, for the purpose of retirement, from Marilyn Yawnick, bus aide-Transportation Department, effective June 1, 2025.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE UPDATE – McPHERSON

Request for leave update from Tiffany McPherson, second grade teacher-Franklin Elementary School, new return date September 1, 2025.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE UPDATE – WHITEMAN-LAND

Request for leave update from Michaela Whiteman-Land, CST-Union High School, new return date May 7, 2025.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE UPDATE – MINNOIA

Request for leave update from Francesca Minnoia, PreK SE teacher-Hannah Caldwell Elementary School, new return date May 12, 2025.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE UPDATE – PRATA

Request for leave update from Ashley Prata, teacher-Jefferson School, new return date June 25, 2025.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE UPDATE – DAGENE-RITTER

Request for leave update from Astride Dagene-Ritter, CST-Union High School, new return date April 28, 2025.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE UPDATE – BRAVETTE

Request for leave update from Victoria Bravette, new return date June 25, 2025.

REQUEST FOR INTERMITTENT LEAVE – NELSON

Request for paid intermittent FMLA leave from Robert Nelson, teacher assistant-Jefferson School, March 3, 2025-May 30, 2025.

REQUEST FOR INTERMITTENT LEAVE – HRDINA BROWN

Request for paid intermittent FMLA from Felecia Hrdina Brown, PreK Instructional Coach-districtwide, April 28, 2025-June 25, 2025.

REQUEST FOR INTERMITTENT LEAVE – WISIAK

Request for paid intermittent FMLA from Tara Wisiak, CST-Hannah Caldwell Elementary School, May 1, 2025-May 1, 2026.

REQUEST FOR INTERMITTENT LEAVE – LAKE

Request for paid intermittent FMLA from Kelly Lake, science teacher-Burnet Middle School, May 1, 2025-November 1, 2025.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE – BOGAR

Request for unpaid leave from Chevonne Bogar, part-time driver-Transportation Department, March 24, 2025-June 24, 2025.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE – PERALTA

Request for paid child rearing leave followed by unpaid FMLA/NJFLA from Antonia Peralta, Spanish teacher-Union High School, June 3, 2025-December 22, 2025.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE – LANGAN

Request for paid FMLA from Susan Langan, teacher assistant-Union High School, May 16, 2025-May 27, 2025.

REQUEST FROM TOWNSHIP OF UNION EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Request from the Township of Union Education Foundation to use the conference room at the Board of Education office, 2369 Morris Avenue, on June 5, 2025 from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. for a small reception to honor grant recipients.

LETTER FROM TOWNSHIP OF UNION EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Letter from Township of Union Education Foundation listing grants that were awarded to teachers for the 2025-2026 school year.

LETTER FROM UNION TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY ACTION ORGANIZATION

Letter from the Union Township Community Action Organization requesting to use Jefferson School parking lots and driveway to hold the Pre-Prom Red Carpet Event on June 5, 2025 from 4:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

Comments from Public (on resolutions):

Board President Carbonell read the following statement:

Good evening, everyone. I'd like to take a moment to thank you all for being here today. As we begin the public comment portion of this meeting, I want to remind everyone that we value your input and appreciate your time and effort in sharing your thoughts and concerns.

As Ms. Koon stated previously, I ask that all comments be respectful and constructive, and that we refrain from calling out, yelling, and disrespectful language.

Each speaker will be given three minutes to address the board. Please remember that while we are eager to hear your perspectives, we may be unable to engage in back-and-forth dialogue during this portion of the meeting. However, your comments will be carefully reviewed and taken into consideration by the

board, and if feasible, the Superintendent or designee, will respond to questions in real time or provide a response at a later time.

With that said, I invite our first speaker to approach. Please state your name and address.

Virginia Jeffries – indicated that she had concerns with the following agenda items F-15, 25-28, 30-32b, 37-38. She also asked if there could be a warning bell when there is one minute left to speak.

#### Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Benaquista – UHS Army JROTC Drill Team has captured a 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive National Championship at the 2025 All Services National High School Drill Team Championship. Competing against over 100 elite teams from the Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force.

Colonial Avarado spoke about the JROTC and how the students come in at 6:00 a.m. and leave at 6:00 p.m. He thanked the parents and the administration.

Two students will be attending West Point – Ryu Javate and Ethan Santos.

Student Representative Mariella Garcia presented The Happenings at Union High School and spoke about the following:

1. Upcoming Dates:
  - Hershey Park – May 29<sup>th</sup> – Senior Class Trip
  - Student v Teachers – May 23<sup>rd</sup> – football game
  - Senior Pool Party – May 30<sup>th</sup>
  - Senior Prom – June 5<sup>th</sup>
2. Commit Day
3. How's the Sports?
  - Flag Football
  - Day of Service
  - Commits
  - ROTC – UHS Army JROTC Drill Teams attended the 2025 National High School Drill Championship in Daytona Beach, Florida and made history by winning their second championship and achieving multiple awards.
4. How's the Arts?
  - Orlandofest – students of the UHSPAC performed and competed at Orlandofest Music Competition in Disney World, Florida and winning multiple awards.
5. How's the Clubs?
  - Key Club – attended NJ Key Club's District Education Conference at the Berkeley Hotel in Asbury Beach, NJ – where they competed and won multiple awards.

- Red Cross Club
- Law Club
- Art Club

Mariella indicated that she is majoring in political science and minoring in sustainability.

Board members thanked and congratulated the district's students.

Livingston Elementary School – Interim Principal Yvonne Lorenzo and PTA President Dawn Casale presented to the Board and community:

- Communication – a letter is sent to the parents every month highlighting the activities of the school
- 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grade chorus
- Join us at the TREP\$ - create your own business, teaches financial literacy and marketing
- Teachers have Fund – Power Purpose Program
- Dancing the Night Away
- Counselor's Corner
- Career Exploration Week
- NJSLA Pep Rally
- Livingston Eagles Garden

Kawameeh Middle School – Principal Jason Malanda and PTA President Nicole Ahern presented to the Board and community:

Events, programs, collaborations and what makes KMS special:

2024-2025 at a glance:

- ELA and Math Coaches
- Ready, Set, Read
- 1<sup>st</sup> Annual KMS Climate Convention
- Daffodil Project – bulbs planted for victims of the Holocaust
- PEER Leadership – 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students

KMS/PTA partnered to host fun and impactful events:

- KMS v BMS staff Volleyball Game
- Corey the Dribbler: Advocacy
- Dine to Donate & Clothing Drive Fundraisers
- Annual 8<sup>th</sup> grade dance
- Staff Appreciation Day
- Student Awards and Recognition - Kawameeh Chiefs

Dr. Benaquista presented the following:

- In the U Highlights

- Teachers of the Year 2024-2025
  - Jennifer Chamberlain – Battle Hill
  - Maria Fiordilino – BMS
  - Yvonne Brown – Connecticut Farms
  - Gail Richardson – Franklin
  - Jennifer Reguinho – Hannah Caldwell
  - Brittany Schill – Jefferson
  - Joy Shaw – KMS
  - Cara Moore – Livingston
  - Lauren Kohn – UHS
  - Cynthia Ferretti - Washington
- ESP of the Year
  - Patricia Griffin – Battle Hill
  - David Castaneda – BMS
  - Marixa Perez – Connecticut Farms
  - Ronnie Clark – Franklin
  - Anthony Bentivenga – Jefferson
  - Connie Ordonez – districtwide
  - Graciette Sobrosa – Hannah Caldwell
  - Susana Graca – KMS
  - DeJa Neal – Livingston
  - Annie Brnaco – UHS
  - Elisabeth Oliveira - Washington
- Senior Awards Night – 108 recipients, 187 scholarships, \$91,250 total amount
- Flag Football – undefeated and divisional champions – first playoff game – May 22<sup>nd</sup> – 4:30 p.m. (home game)
- Tennis, Softball, Baseball
- Ordlandofest
- Parent Survey for students with disabilities
- Teacher Appreciation Week
- Strategic Plan Meetings – May 7<sup>th</sup> and May 15<sup>th</sup> – updated to be presented in June

HIB (see E-1-1/E-1-1A):

- Affirm HIB for period April 30<sup>th</sup> to May 13<sup>th</sup> – 1 founded; 4 not founded/inconclusive
- Report HIB for period May 14<sup>th</sup> to May 20<sup>th</sup> – 3 founded; 1 not founded/inconclusive

#### Education/Student Discipline Committee Resolutions:

Mrs. Faria highlighted items on the agenda.

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

E-1. *Agenda item reported at May 13, 2025 worksession – Report of HIB-April 30, 2025 to May 13, 2025.*

E-1A. *Agenda item approved at May 13, 2025 worksession – Affirm HIB – April 8, 2025 to April 29, 2025.*

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

Affirm the Superintendent’s determination of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) for the periods April 30, 2025 to May 13, 2025, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

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

Superintendent’s Report of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) for the period May 14, 2025 to May 20, 2025, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes (*no vote required; for reporting purposes only*).

E-2. APPROVE AFFILIATION AGREEMENT – SETON HALL UNIVERSITY

Approve Affiliation Agreement between the district and Seton Hall University for clinical placement for university students within the district, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

E-3. APPROVE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – UNION COLLEGE OF UNION COUNTY NJ

Approve Internship Site Memorandum of Understanding between the district and Union College of Union County, NJ (UCNJ) for internship placements for college students within the district, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

E-4. APPROVE TO COORDINATE GRADUATE LEVEL SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY EXTERNS – KEAN UNIVERSITY

Approve to coordinate graduate level school psychology externs from Kean University, as part of the requirement of the School Based Mental Health Grant Award, for the Fall 2025 semester; all salaries will be paid for using School Based Mental Health Grant Award and approved by the NJDOE per the grant requirements:

- Kean University Extern Advisor – Dr. Aaron A. Gubi, SBMH not to exceed \$9,100.00 – paid for using SBMH Grant Account #8640
- School Based Mental Health Extern Approval for Fall 2025 semester: (a) Kenneth Cammilleri, (b) Kyle Cammilleri, (c) Daniel McMahon, (d) Robert Bobko, (e) Samara Infantino, (f) Fiorella Quezada, (g) Victoria Ferguson – SBMH Grant not to exceed \$51,188.00 – paid for using SBMH Grant account #8638 [pending background checks and availability of SBMH funds]

E-5. APPROVE FAMILY CENTER OF MONTCLAIR – SCREENING/INTERVENTION

Approve Family Center of Montclair to provide depression screening and same day interventions for grades 7-12<sup>th</sup> (opt in) for the Fall 2025 as per a requirement of the Mental Health Depression Screening in Schools Grant at a cost of \$18,335.00 paid for using MH funds Account #20307 if servicing up to 875 students.



**E-6. APPROVE TO ACCEPT FUNDS – NJDOE ESPORTS INDUSTRY CAREER EXPLORATION COMPETITIVE GRANT AWARD**

Approve acceptance of funds for the NJDOE Esports Industry Career Exploration Competitive Grant Award for the 2025-2026 school year, in the amount of \$50,000 to support both Burnet and Kawameeh Middle Schools.

**E-7. APPROVE TO ACCEPT FUNDS – NJDOE MENSTRUAL PRODUCT REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM**

Approve to accept funds for the NJDOE menstrual product reimbursement program, in the amount of \$295.35 for the 2024-2025 school year.

**E-8. APPROVE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAIN THE TRAINER SESSION – FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Approve professional development train the trainer session at Franklin Elementary School using Touch Math. The intervention will be used during both the day school and after school programming. Trainers will turn-key the program to the elementary staff for implementation at a cost of \$5,000.00 paid from using Title II funds accounts #8434/8441.

**E-9. APPROVE REMOVAL OF LIBRARY BOOKS – KAWAMEEH MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Approve removal of library books from the Kawameeh Middle School collection, including damaged items, outdated and unused materials (over 25 years old and not circulated since 2005 or earlier); removal is in accordance with district guidelines for library collection maintenance and in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**E-10. ACCEPT GRANTS FROM TOWNSHIP OF UNION EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

Approve acceptance of grants from the Township of Union Education Foundation for the 2025-2026 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

*E-11. Agenda item approved at May 13, 2025 worksession – long-term suspension/home instruction-students.*

*E-12. Agenda item approved at May 13, 2025 worksession – reinstatement of students.*

**E-13. APPROVE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS – DISTRICTWIDE**

Approve districtwide professional development workshops on June 10, 2025, presented by Lo Logramos Consulting LLC; topics include effective language instruction and building AI literacy in the classroom, at a cost of \$2,800.00 (including travel), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**E-14. APPROVE APPLICATION FOR GRANTS**

Approve application for the Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Course Expansion Grant in the amount of \$75,000.00 and the Funding for Optimal Comprehensive Universal Screeners (FOCUS) Grant in the amount of \$20,930.00 from the New Jersey Department of Education.

## DISCUSSION:

None

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

## Fiscal and Planning Committee Resolutions:

Mr. McDowell advised the Board and community that F-17 will be pulled from the agenda.

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

## F-1. TREASURER'S REPORT

That the Treasurer's Report dated April 30, 2025 be accepted.

## F-2. SECRETARY'S REPORT

That the Secretary's Report dated April 30, 2025 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 April 30, 2025 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 April 30, 2025 after review of the secretary's monthly financial report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials that to the best of our knowledge no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.2(d)3 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year. This certification is solely based on the information provided by the School Business Administrator and Board Secretary and is assumed by the Board to be correct.

## F-4. APPROVE APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS

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

## F-5. APPROVE LIST OF CONTRACTS/PURCHASE ORDERS

Approve the attached list of contracts and/or purchase orders (copyrighted materials and licenses) pursuant to the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5 (bid exceptions to requirement for

advertising) and 18A:18A-10(a) (purchase through State agency; procedure), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-6. APPROVE DISTRICTWIDE TRAVEL AND RELATED EXPENSES (*none at this time*)**

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

*F-7. Agenda item pproved at May 13, 2025 worksession – Student Field Trips.*

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

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

**F-8. APPROVE LIST OF 2024-2025 STATE CONTRACT APPROVED VENDORS**

Approve the amended list of the 2024-2025 State Contract Approved Vendors pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-10(a) (purchase through State agency; procedure) to facilitate schools' purchasing, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

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

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

School	Account/Department	Vendor/Description	Amount
Union High School	2018/Senior Awards	PEER Ambassador Scholarship-Student TBD	\$1,000.00
Union High School	2018/Senior Awards	PEER Ambassador Scholarship-Student TBD	\$1,000.00
Kawameeh Middle School	41/Musical Production	C&R Graphics – playbills for Matilda Jr.	\$2,600.00
Franklin Elementary School	8074	Nettie, Nana & Friends – interactive puppet show, grades 2-4 (3/18/25)	\$1,299.00
Union High School	2225/Junior Class	C&R Graphics – t-shirts for Dorney Park trip	\$6,000.00 (not to exceed)
Union High School	2225/Junior Class	Sunny Trail Bus Company – charter buses for Dorney Park	\$15,000.00 (not to exceed)
Union High School	2225/Junior Class	Dorney Park – Junior Class Trip	\$20,000.00 (not to exceed)
Union High School	2084/Social Studies	Passaic Valley Coaches – buses for Board approved field trip	\$3,627.00
Union High School	2084/Social Studies	Statue Cruises – ferry/museum fee for Ellis Island Trip	\$1,485.00
Union High School	2033/Marching Band	Camp Shahola – band camp	\$14,000.00 (not to exceed)
Union High School	2055/Yearbook	Apple – 18 Mac Mini and 3 year Apple Care	\$11,000.00 (not to exceed)

Union High School	2055/Yearbook	Dell 27" Mac OS compatible monitor	\$9,000.00 (not to exceed)
Kawameeh Middle School	30/Administration	Cranford Pool – 8 <sup>th</sup> grade class trip on June 10, 2025	\$1,900.00 (not to exceed)
Washington Elementary School	2007/4 <sup>th</sup> grade	Medieval Times – admission fee – 4 <sup>th</sup> grade trip	\$2,350.00
Washington Elementary School	2003/Kindergarten	Turtle Back Zoo – admission fee – kindergarten trip	\$2,567.00
Washington Elementary School	2003/Kindergarten	Von Thon Farm – admission fee – kindergarten field trip	\$1,764.00

**F-9B. APPROVE FUNDRAISERS**

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

Event Name	Date	Purpose
Parents Night Out - Play and Laugh	June 13, 2025	BMS/8 <sup>th</sup> grade Class of 2025 – to raise funds for Class of 2025 end of year party, field trip, breakfast and activities
Leadership Conference for Grades 5-8	May 15, 2025-June 7, 2025	UHS/Peer Ambassadors – to raise funds for lunch and give aways for participants who register for conference
Friendship Bracelet Event	June 2025	UHS/Key Club – to raise funds for annual convention
End of Year Tailgate	June 12, 2025	UHS/Farmer Fam/UMatter – to raise funds for future events
Senior Banners	May-June, 2025	UHS/Prom – to raise funds for prom
Dunk Tank	May-June, 2025	UHS/Junior Class – to raise funds for Junior Class

**F-9C. ACCEPT DONATIONS**

Accept the following donations:

From	For Use By	\$/Item
Reading for Education	Livingston Elementary School	\$29.50
Shutterfly LLC	Livingston Elementary School	\$721.93
Shutterfly LLC	Union High School	\$3,765.28
Chipotle	Union High School	\$67.88

**F-10. APPROVE 2024-2025 OUT-OF-DISTRICT STUDENT PLACEMENT LIST**

Approval be given to amend the 2024-2025 out-of-district student placement list (month of May 2025), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-11. APPROVE TRAVEL AND RELATED EXPENSES**

Approve travel and related expenses pursuant to the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:11-12, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.8, 5.9 for the NJSBA Workshop Convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey (October 20-23, 2025) for Board members and Central Office Administration: Gerry Benaquista, Superintendent, Marissa McKenzie, Assistant Superintendent, Jose Rodriguez, Assistant Superintendent, Dixiana Carbonell, Board President, Kimberly Scott-Hayden, Board Vice President, Michael Cohan, Elsie Conteh-Mackey, Guida Faria, Ronnie McDowell, Nancy

Minneeci, Greg Nasta and Chastity Santana (Board members), and Yolanda Koon, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

**F-12. APPROVE TUITION RATES FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR**

Approve the following tuition rates for the 2025-2026 school year:

Preschool (full day)	\$13,719.00
Kindergarten	\$13,719.00
Grades 1 through 5	\$16,677.00
Grades 6 through 8	\$17,148.00
Grades 9 through 12	\$16,663.00
LLD	\$15,765.00
M.D.	\$23,049.00
Emotional Reg. Imp.	\$30,621.00
Autism	\$23,330.00
Part-time Preschool Handicapped	\$0
Full-time Preschool Handicapped	\$17,501.00

**F-13. APPROVE BANKING SERVICES – CONNECT ONE BANK**

Approve Connect One Bank for banking services (general fund) for the 2025-2026 school year and open a new bank account to handle all transactions regarding healthcare.

**F-14. APPROVE AUDITOR – SUPLEE CLOONEY & CO.**

Approve the auditing firm of Suplee Clooney & Co. to audit the district's financials for the period ending June 30, 2025 (not to exceed \$70,000.00).

**F-15. APPROVE GENERAL COUNSEL AND SPECIAL EDUCATION COUNSEL – TAYLOR LAW GROUP**

Approve the law firm of Taylor Law Group as General Counsel and Special Education Counsel at an hourly rate of \$190.00 (paralegals \$100/hr.) for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 (not to exceed \$500,000.00).

**F-16. APPROVE SPECIAL COUNSEL – APRUZZESE, McDERMOTT, MASTRO & MURPHY**

Approve a contract with Robert Clark, Esq. of the law firm of Apruzzese, McDermott, Mastro & Murphy as special counsel at an hourly rate of \$190.00, on an as needed basis for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 (not to exceed \$50,000.00).

*F-17. Agenda item removed at May 20, 2025 regular meeting (special litigation counsel-Arleo & Donohue).*

**F-18. APPROVE PROPERTY/CASUALTY/WORKERS COMPENSATION BROKERAGE SERVICE - FAIRVIEW INSURANCE AGENCY**

Approve Fairview Insurance Agency as the property/casualty/workers' compensation brokerage service for the district for the period July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

**F-19. APPROVE HEALTHCARE BROKER**

Approve Fairview Insurance Agency, as healthcare brokers, for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

**F-20. APPROVE HEALTHCARE PLANS**

Approve healthcare providers, (a) AETNA/Meritain Health - healthcare insurance for medical and prescription, (b) Delta Dental - dental insurance and (c) VSP - vision benefits for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

**F-21. APPROVE FOOD SERVICE COMPANY – POMPTONIAN**

Approve Pomptonian Food Service as company for district food services for the 2025-2026 school year.

**F-22. APPROVE ARCHITECTS**

Approve the following architectural firms for the period July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026: (a) EI Associates, (b) Parette Somjen Architects LLC, (c) Spiezle Architectural Group Inc. and (d) Potter Architects.

**F-23. APPROVE ENGINEERS**

Approve the following engineering firms for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026: (a) Consulting & Municipal Engineers, (b) T&M Associates, and (c) Colliers Engineering.

**F-24. APPROVE BOND COUNSEL – WILENTZ GOLDMAN & SPITZER**

Approve the law firm of Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, as bond counsel for the district for the period July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

**F-25. APPROVE ACES – EVALUATIONS**

Approve ACES (Assessments Counseling and Education Services) to provide deaf and hard of hearing evaluations for district students at the rate of \$950.00 per evaluation (not to exceed \$3,800.00) for the 2025-2026 school year [Account Fund #7074/11-000-219-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-26. APPROVE COUNSELING CENTERS FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT – MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING**

Approve Counseling Centers for Human Development for mental health screening (#90791-initial diagnostic interview) at the rate of \$250.00 per screening (not to exceed \$1,750.00) for the 2025-2026 school year [Account Fund #7074/11-000-219-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-27. APPROVE LEARNING TREE MULTICULTURAL/MULTILINGUAL EVALUATION AND CONSULTING – EVALUATIONS**

Approve the use of Learning Tree Multicultural/Multilingual Evaluation and Consulting to conduct educational, speech/language, social history and psychological evaluations for district students. The cost is as follows: Evaluations conducted in (a) Spanish - \$830.00/per evaluation and (b) other languages - \$880.00/per evaluation (not too exceed \$4,400.00) for the 2025-2026

school year [Account Fund #7074/11-000-219-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-28. APPROVE ASSISTIVE TEK – EVALUATIONS**

Approve Assistive Tek to provide assistive technology evaluations at the rate of \$1,800.00 (not to exceed \$5,400.00) for the 2025-2026 school year [Account Fund #7074/11-000-219-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-29. APPROVE MARILYN KUBICHEK – EVALUATIONS**

Approve Marilyn Kubichek, MD, FAAP, to provide neurological evaluations and neurodevelopmental evaluations at the rate of \$725.00 per evaluation (\$725-\$1,200.00 per off-site evaluation) for the 2025-2026 school year (not to exceed \$25,000.00 [Account Fund #7074/11-000-219-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-30. APPROVE SUMMIT SPEECH – EVALUATIONS**

Approve Summit Speech to provide acoustic evaluation for K through 5<sup>th</sup> grades at \$550.00 per evaluation, 6<sup>th</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade at \$750.00 per evaluation and audiological consultation at the rate of \$250.00 per hour (not to exceed \$1,500.00) for the 2025-2026 school year [Account Fund #7074/11-000-216-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-31a. APPROVE SHORT HILLS ASSOCIATES IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY – EVALUATIONS**

Approve Short Hills Associates in Clinical Psychology, Dr. Cecilia Belardinelli, for psychiatric evaluation (including report) at a rate of \$800.00 per evaluation (not to exceed \$4,000.00) for the 2024-2025 school year [Account Fund #7074/11-000-219-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-31b. APPROVE SHORT HILLS ASSOCIATES IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY – EVALUATIONS**

Approve Short Hills Associates in Clinical Psychology, Dr. Cecilia Belardinelli, for psychiatric evaluation (including report) at a rate of \$800.00 per evaluation (not to exceed \$10,400.00) for the 2025-2026 school year [Account Fund #7074/11-000-219-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-32. APPROVE REACH HEALTH SERVICES - STUDENT RISK ASSESSMENT**

Approve Reach Health Services for the 2025-2026 school year to provide individual student risk assessment at a rate of \$225.00 per assessment (not to exceed \$2,250.00) [Account Fund # 7074/11-000-219-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-33. APPROVE THE FAMILY CENTER AT MONTCLAIR – MENTAL HEALTH SCREENINGS AND EVALUATIONS**

Approve The Family Center at Montclair for (a) mental health screenings at the rate of \$200.00 per screening and (b) psychiatric evaluation at the rate of \$1,800.00 (not to exceed

\$25,000.00) for the 2025-2026 school year [Account Fund #7074/11-00-219-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-34. APPROVE INLINGUA – TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETATION SERVICES**

Approve Inlingua to provide translation and interpretation services for the 2024-2025 school year (not to exceed \$5,000.00) [Account Fund #7043/11-000-216-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-35. APPROVE TECHABILITIES CONSULTING – EVALUATIONS**

Approve TechAbilities Consulting to provide the following evaluations for district students (a) assistive technology evaluations - \$900.00 per evaluation, (b) augmentative communication evaluations - \$1,000.00 per evaluation, (c) assistive technological or AAC consultation - \$150.00 per hour, (d) speech language consult/speech language therapy - \$125.00 per hour and (e) assistive technology/AAC general training - \$175.00 per hour (not to exceed \$24,000.00) for the 2025-2026 school year [Account Fund #7074/11-000-219-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-36. APPROVE KID CLAN – EVALUATIONS**

Approve Kid Clan for the following evaluations: (a) occupational therapy evaluation - \$375.00, (b) physical therapy evaluation - \$375.00, (c) monolingual speech - \$375.00, (d) monolingual social - \$360.00, (e) monolingual educational - \$400.00, (f) monolingual psychological - \$400.00, (g) bilingual speech - \$475.00, (h) bilingual social - \$410.00, (i) bilingual educational - \$475.00, (j) bilingual psychological - \$475.00 (not to exceed \$15,000.00) for the 2025-2026 school year [Account Fund #7074/11-000-219-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-37. APPROVE GREAT BEGINNINGS – EVALUATIONS**

Approve Great Beginnings, Dr. Debora Buzinkai, for the following evaluations (not to exceed \$5,000.00) for the 2025-2026 school year [Account Fund #: 7074/11-000-219-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes:

- Dyslexia Evaluation - \$1,400.00
- Dysgraphia Evaluation - \$1,400.00
- Dyscalculia Evaluation - \$1,400.00
- Any two of the above - \$2,200.00
- All three of the above - \$2,600.00
  
- Neuropsychological Evaluation - \$3,600.00
- Evaluation for Autism - \$4,400.00
- Placement - \$4,200.00

**F-38. APPROVE SPEECH AND HEARING ASSOCIATES – EVALUATIONS**

Approve Speech & Hearing Associates to provide (a) central auditory processing evaluation with report (including comprehensive peripheral audiological evaluation) at the rate of \$700.00, (b) comprehensive peripheral audiological evaluation with report at the rate of \$350.00, (c) augmentative and alternative communication evaluation with report at the rate of



\$900.00, (d) in-school consultation (2-hr. minimum)/per hour at the rate of \$175.00, (e) virtual consultation (no minimum)/per hour at the rate of \$160.00, to district students (not to exceed \$1,400.00) for the 2025-2026 school year [Account #11-000-219-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-39a. APPROVE NORTH JERSEY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES – BEHAVIOR SERVICES**

Approve North Jersey Behavioral Health Services (dba the Capstone Center) to provide applied behavior services to a district student (#250775) at a not-to-exceed cost of \$255,600.00 for the 2025-2026 school year [Account Fund #11-000-216-320-01-19], in accordance with non-public information appended to the minutes.

**F-39b. APPROVE NORTH JERSEY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES – BEHAVIOR SERVICES**

Approve North Jersey Behavioral Health Services (dba the Capstone Center) to provide applied behavior services to a district student (#230813) at a not-to-exceed cost of \$255,600.00 for the 2025-2026 school year [Account Fund #11-000-216-320-01-19], in accordance with non-public information appended to the minutes.

**F-40. APPROVE RATES AND OTHER SERVICES AGREEMENT – UCESC**

Approve the 2025-2026 Rates and Other Services Agreement between the Union County Educational Services Commission (UCESC) and the district, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-41. APPROVE WORK BASED LEARNING SITE – ESY SESSION**

Approve Kean University Food Services, Kean University as a work-based learning site for district students during the Extended School Year (ESY) session (July 1, 2025-July 30, 2025).

**F-42. APPROVE COMMUNITY BASED INSTRUCTION PROGRAM CONTRACT – YMCA**

Approve Contract with YMCA for Community Based Instruction (CBI) Program for the 2025-2026 school year; student costs are not expected to exceed \$2,000.00 [Account Fund #7043/11-000-216-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-43. APPROVE TEACHING STRATEGIES – PD**

Approve Teaching Strategies to provide custom professional development sessions on June 10, 2025 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (not to exceed \$2,255.00) [Account Fund #7075/11-000-219-320-02-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-44. APPROVE OUR HOUSE – COMMUNITY-BASED EMPLOYMENT SERVICES**

Approve Our House, Inc. to provide community-based employment services to district students for the 2025-2026 school year, in an amount not to exceed \$210,000 [Account Fund #7043/11-000-216-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-45. APPROVE MORRIS UNION JOINTURE COMMISSION**

Approve Morris Union Jointure Commission to provide the following: (a) physical therapy - \$230/hr., (b) occupational therapy - \$210/hr., (c) speech therapy - \$245/hr., (d) full-time personal aides for ESY - \$12,761.00 each, (e) full-time personal aides for school year - \$76,569.00 each, (f) half-time aides for ESY - \$6,381.00 each and (g) half-time aides for school year - \$38,283.00 each (these services are in accordance with the students' IEPs), not to exceed \$385,000.00 for the 2025-2026 school year [Account Fund #11-000-216-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-46. APPROVE REACH HEALTH SERVICES – CLINICAL COUNSELING SERVICE**

Approve Reach Health Services to provide clinical counseling services and the wraparound program for the 2025-2026 school year and ESY in-district program at the cost of \$43,968.30 and \$2,075.20, respectively [Account Fund #7043/11-000-219-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-47. APPROVE LEARNWELL – BEDSIDE INSTRUCTION**

Approve teachers employed through LearnWell to provide bedside instruction for district students on an “as needed” basis for the school year 2025-2026, in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00 [Account Fund #7693/11-150-100-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-48. APPROVE SILVERGATE – BEDSIDE INSTRUCTION**

Approve teachers employed through Silvergate to provide bedside instruction for district students on an “as needed” basis for the school year 2025-2026, in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 [Account Fund #7693/11-150-100-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-49. APPROVE POSITIVE PATHWAYS BEHAVIOR SERVICES – HOME INSTRUCTION**

Approve teachers employed through Positive Pathways Behavior Services to provide home instruction for district students on an “as needed” basis for the 2025-2026 school year, in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00 [Account Fund #7693/11-150-100-320-01-19}, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-50. APPROVE ST. CLARE’S HOSPITAL – BEDSIDE INSTRUCTION**

Approve teachers employed through St. Clare’s Hospital, to provide bedside instruction for district students on an “as needed” basis for the 2025-2026 school year, in an amount not to exceed \$2,000 [Account Fund #7693/11-150-100-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-51. APPROVE WHITE GLOVE COMMUNITY CARE – NURSING SERVICES**

Approve White Glove Community Care to provide nursing services at the rate of \$68.00/hr. for RN, \$58.00/hr. for LPN and transportation services at a rate of \$85.00/hr. (2 hour minimum) for RN and \$80.00/hr. (2 hour minimum) for LPN for the 2025-2026 school year (not to exceed \$60,000.00) [Account Fund #7043/11-000-216-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-52. APPROVE STARLIGHT HOMECARE AGENCY – NURSING SERVICES**

Approve Starlight Homecare Agency to provide nursing services at the rate of \$64.00/hr. for RN and \$55.00/hr. for LPN for the 2025-2026 school year (not to exceed \$150,000.00) [Account Fund #11-000-216-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-53. APPROVE PREFERRED HOME HEALTH CARE AND NURSING SERVICES – NURSING SERVICES**

Approve Preferred Home Health Care and Nursing Services d/b/a/ Care Options for Kids to provide nursing services at the rate of \$68.00/hr. for RN and \$61.00/hr. for LPN (not to exceed \$100,000.00 for the 2025-2026 school year [Account Fund #11-000-216-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-54. APPROVE MOM AND DAD HOME HEALTH – NURSING SERVICES**

Approve Mom and Dad Home Health to provide nursing services at the rate of \$107.00/hr. for RN/LPN weekdays and \$117.00/hr. for RN/LPN weekends and holidays (not to exceed \$225,000.00) for the 2025-2026 school year [Account Fund #11-000-216-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-55. APPROVE ATC HEALTHCARE SERVICES– NURSING SERVICES**

Approve ATC (Around the Clock) Healthcare Services to provide nursing services at the rate of \$91.50/hr. for RN-CSN and \$72.00/hr. for RN non-CSN and \$60.00/hr. for LPN (not to exceed \$200,000.00) for the 2025-2026 school year [Account Fund #11-000-216-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-56. APPROVE BAYADA HOME HEALTH CARE – NURSING SERVICES**

Approve Bayada Home Health Care to provide nursing services at the rate of \$70.00/hr. for RN and \$68.00/hr. for LPN for the 2025-2026 school year (not to exceed \$50,000.00) [Account Fund #7074/11-000-219-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-57. APPROVE ESTABLISHMENT OF PETTY CASH ACCOUNT – CBI – BATTLE HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Approve establishment of a petty cash account for costs associated with students' IEP driven Community Based Instruction (CBI) at Battle Hill Elementary School – Extended School Year (ESY) Program, in the amount of \$2,000.00 for the 2025-2026 school year.

*F-58. Agenda item approved at May 13, 2025 worksession -Statistical Forecasting-demographic services.*

*F-59. Agenda item approved at May 13, 2025 worksession – Spiezle Architectural Group – professional services.*

**F-60. APPROVE CHANGE ORDER FOR HVAC CLEAN ENERGY GRANT PROJECT – HANNAH CALDWELL**

Approve Change Order for the HVAC Clean Energy Grant project at Hannah Caldwell Elementary School which is eligible for 75% state funding reimbursement and has come in under budget with verified available funds in the amount of \$64,635.00. This is necessary to comply with all grant requirements (i.e. addition of pump vibration isolation, hot water pipe air vents, and modifications to ductwork including an electric duct heater, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-ATTY. *For informational purposes only – vote not required.* List of legal services paid as of April 30, 2025 for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**DISCUSSION:**

Board President Carbonell advised the community that F-11 are workshops/classes for Board members.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: All Board members abstained on their name only

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Operations/Technology Committee Resolutions:**

Mrs. Conteh-Mackey gave an update on the aging of the district's school buildings and how the maintenance department is keeping them together even with the limited fundings.

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following resolutions were moved by Mr. Nasta, seconded by Mrs. Conteh-Mackey 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 2024-2025 school year, in accordance with the non-public 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 2025-2026 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 12th Street NE, P.O. Box 219, Staples, MN 56479
9. Omnia Partner Member ID: 947046 utilizing Omnia Partner, Region 4 ESC Contract #R200401, Minneapolis, Minnesota for ESIP project.
10. The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS), 4845 Highway 271 North, Pittsburg, TX 75686
11. New Jersey Educational Computing Cooperative (NJECC)
12. PEPPM Consortium membership, a national contract program for district purchasing agent
13. NJ Edge Consortium membership, a non-profit technology services provider.
14. New Jersey Cooperative Purchasing Alliance Cooperative Pricing Agreement with the County of Bergen (Lead Agency).

O-3. APPROVE REQUEST FROM TOWNSHIP OF UNION EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Approve request from the Township of Union Education Foundation to use the conference room at the Board of Education office, 2369 Morris Avenue, on June 5, 2025 from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. for a small reception to honor grant recipients (Certificate of Insurance and Hold Harmless Agreement received).

O-4. *Agenda item approved at May 13, 2025 worksession – Shared Services Agreement – Township of Union – Regional Industry Services.*

O-5. APPROVE REQUEST FROM UNION TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY ACTION ORGANIZATION – JEFFERSON SCHOOL

Approve request from the Union Township Community Action Organization to use Jefferson School parking lots and driveway to hold the Pre-Prom Red Carpet Event on June 5, 2025 from 4:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m. (Certificate of Insurance and Hold Harmless Agreement forthcoming).

T-1. APPROVE RECYCLING OF EQUIPMENT

Approve list of equipment for recycling, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

T-2. APPROVE ADVERTISEMENT FOR SALE - IT EQUIPMENT

Approve advertisement for sale of the following IT equipment: various Dell Monitors which have been deemed no longer needed, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

DISCUSSION:

None

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

## Personnel Committee Resolutions:

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

## P-1A. PERSONNEL ACTIONS – NEW HIRES

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

## P-1B PERSONNEL ACTIONS – EXTRA PAY

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

P-1C PERSONNEL ACTIONS – TRANSFERS (*no transfers at this time*)

## P-2. APPROVE SUBSTITUTE LISTS

Approve Substitute Lists for the 2024-2025 school year.

Name	Position	Rate
Kevin Hall	Daily sub	\$140/per day (pending paperwork)
Mark Santos	Daily sub	\$140/per day (pending paperwork)
Jose Dominguez	Daily sub	\$140/per day
Oscar Gomez Botero	Daily sub	\$140/per day
Marianna Bohannon	Daily sub	\$140/per day (pending paperwork)

## P-3A. ACCEPT LETTERS OF RESIGNATION/RETIREMENT

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

Name	Position	Location	Eff. Date	Reason	Years of Services
Erin Orsini	Part-time clerk	BMS	4/11/2025	Resignation	
Lisa Padden	12-month secretary	UHS	7/1/2025	Retirement	25 yrs.
Gerard Vandewal	Health and physical education teacher	BMS	7/1/2025	Retirement	22 yrs.
Marilyn Yawnick	Bus aide	Transportation Department	6/1/2025	Retirement	13 yrs.

## P-3B. APPROVE LEAVES

Approve leaves for the following staff:

Name	Position	Location	Leave Dates	Leave Type
Tiffany McPherson	2 <sup>nd</sup> grade teacher	Franklin	New return date 9/1/2025	New return date
Michaela Whiteman-Land	CST	UHS	New return date 5/7/2025	New return date

Francesca Minnoia	PreK SE teacher	Hannah Caldwell	New return date 5/12/2025	New return date
Ashley Prata	Teacher	Jefferson	New return date 6/25/2025	New return date
Astride Dagene-Ritter	CST	UHS	New return date 4/28/2025	New return date
Robert Nelson	Teacher Assistant	Jefferson	Intermittent 3/3/2025-5/30/2025	Paid intermittent FMLA
Victoria Bravette			New return date 6/25/2025	New return date
Felecia Hrdina Brown	PreK Instructional Coach	Districtwide	Intermittent 4/28/2025-6/25/2025	Paid intermittent FMLA
Tara Wisiak	CST	Hannah Caldwell	Intermittent 5/1/2025-5/1/2026	Paid intermittent FMLA
Kelly Lake	Science teacher	BMS	Intermittent 5/1/2025-11/1/2025	Paid intermittent FMLA
Chevonne Bogar	PT driver	Transportation Dept.	3/24/2025-6/24/2025	Unpaid leave
Antonia Peralta	Spanish teacher	UHS	6/3/2025-12/22/2025	Paid child rearing leave followed by unpaid FMLA/NJFLA
Susan Langan	Teacher assistant	UHS	5/16/2025-5/27/2025	Paid FMLA

**P-4. APPROVE ATTENDANCE AT MRA INTERNATIONAL’S ANNUAL INTERNET WORKING 2025**

Approve Marissa McKenzie to attend the MRA International’s Annual InterNETworking 2025 at Ocean Place Resort & Spa, Long Branch, New Jersey, July 23-25, 2025, at a cost not to exceed \$200.00.

**P-5. APPROVE RESIDENCY INVESTIGATORS – 2025-2026**

Approve residency investigators to work during the 2025-2026 school year (July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026), as follows: (a) Maria Schmidtberg – not to exceed 70 hours per month, unless authorized (\$26.00/hr.) and (b) Dan Hodge – not to exceed 70 hours per month (\$21.00/hr.).

**P-6. APPROVE STUDENT TEACHERS AND INTERNSHIPS**

Approve student teachers and internships for the 2024-2025 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**P-7. APPROVE ATTENDANCE AT ASBO INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND NJASBO ANNUAL CONFERENCE – KOON**

Approve Yolanda Koon to attend the ASBO International Conference in Fort Worth, Texas (October 20-24, 2025) for a total cost not to exceed \$3,200.00 and the Annual NJASBO Conference, Atlantic City, New Jersey (June 4-6, 2025) for a total cost not to exceed \$1,300.00 per contract.

P-8. APPROVE JOB DESCRIPTION – MANAGER OF SECURITY

Approve Job Description – Manager of Security, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

P-9. APPROVE JOB DESCRIPTION – COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST/WEBMASTER

Approve Job Description – Communications Specialist/Webmaster, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

P-10. APPROVE CENTRAL OFFICE RESOLUTION

Approve Resolution Providing Salary and Fringe Benefits – Central Office Personnel (11- and 12-month employees), for the period July 1, 2024-June 30, 2028, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

P-11. APPROVE EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT – McKENZIE

Approve Employment Contract for Marissa McKenzie, as Assistant Superintendent of Business Operations, for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, approved by the County Superintendent, in accordance with the non-public information appended to the minutes.

P-12. APPROVE EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT – RODRIGUEZ

Approve Employment Contract for Dr. Jose Rodriguez, as Assistant Superintendent, for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, approved by the County Superintendent, in accordance with the non-public information appended to the minutes.

P-13. APPROVE EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT – KOON

Approve Employment Contract for Yolanda Koon, as School Business Administrator/ Board Secretary, for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, approved by the County Superintendent. in accordance with the non-public information appended to the minutes.

DISCUSSION:

None

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Policy Committee:

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and the Policy Committee, the following policies were moved by Mrs. Minneci, seconded by Mrs. Faria, for **FINAL READING** and adoption:

POL-1. POLICY 2365 – ACCEPTABLE USE OF GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (NEW)

Approve Policy 2365-Acceptable Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.



POL-2. *Agenda item tabled at May 13, 2025 worksession – Policy 5111.*

POL-3. POLICY 5533 – STUDENT SMOKING (M)

Approve Policy 5533 – Student Smoking, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

POL-4. POLICY 5701 – ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Approve Policy 5701-Academic Integrity, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

POL-5. POLICY 9163 – SPECTATOR CODE OF CONDUCT FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC EVENTS (M) (NEW)

Approve Policy 9163-Spectator Code of Conduct for Interscholastic Events, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

REG-1. REGULATION 5516 – USE OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES (NEW)

Approve Regulation 5516-Use of Electronic Communication Devices, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

REG-2. REGULATION 7441 – ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE IN SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND ON SCHOOL GROUNDS (M)

Approve Regulation 7441-Electronic Surveillance in School Buildings and on School Grounds, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

REG-3. REGULATION 9320 – COOPERATION WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES (M)

Approve Regulation 9320-Cooperation With Law Enforcement Agencies, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

DISCUSSION:

None

AYE: Mrs. Conteh-Mackey, Mrs. Faria, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Minneci,

Mr. Nasta, Ms. Santana, Mrs. Scott-Hayden, Ms. Carbonell

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and the Policy Committee, the following policy was moved by Mrs. Minneci, seconded by Mrs. Faria, for **FIRST READING**:

POL-1A. POLICY 5111 – ELIGIBILITY OF RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT STUDENTS (M)

Approve Policy 5111 – Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students.

DISCUSSION:

None

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

#### Residency Committee Resolutions:

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Minneci reported on the following:

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

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

Student No.	School
#270589	Union High School – 10 <sup>th</sup> grade
#266084	Union High School – 11 <sup>th</sup> grade
#350927	Hannah Caldwell Elementary School – 2 <sup>nd</sup> grade
#350928	Hannah Caldwell Elementary School – 2 <sup>nd</sup> grade

*For informational purposes only (no vote required):* The following totals are as of the April 29, 2025 Board meeting (2024-2025 school year):

Students Removed:	8
Students Voluntarily Transferred:	17

#### Approval of Bills:

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, moved by Mrs. Scott-Hayden, seconded by Mr. Nasta that the Board concurs with the bills listed in the permanent bound register appended to these minutes and be ordered for payment.

#### DISCUSSION:

None

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

#### Unfinished Business:

None

#### New Business:

Mrs. Minneci – there are events taking place over the Memorial Day weekend and the Board will be participating in the Memorial Day Parade on Monday.

Mr. McDowell – he attended the senior awards at Union High School; Union is a great place to live.

Mrs. Faria – she attended Burnet Middle School's performance of the Sister Act and everyone did a nice job. Kawameeh Middle School's orchestra performance is tomorrow.

Board President Carbonell – April was Asian-Pacific Island month and there was a festival in town. She participated in the activities, and it was a nice experience. Chamber of Commerce Gala – we will only be successful when we all work together.

#### Comments from the Public:

Ann Margaret Shannon – thank you to Dr. Benaquista – ESP is being handled by Central Office. All the presentations tonight show how wonderful we are. We heard from parents about test scores and today we saw all the successes in our students. Students do well in Union. All our students have different gifts – from struggles to success and UTEA members work hard for our students.

Christine Zurka – ESP in district – we are non-teaching staff that play a vital roll with the students to ensure a safe learning environment. We have challenges and we deserve more money. She loves her job but needs a livable wage. Please consider giving us a livable wage.

Susan Lipstein – President of the Union Township Education Foundation – spoke about the grants that were given to the teachers in the district and approved tonight (see agenda item E-10). Board President Carbonell thanked the Ed Foundation for what they do for the district students.

Michelle Zatta – thanked Mrs. Lipstein for the grants given to the students. She indicated it was nice to see students recognized. She indicated that next year there is a law that mandates universal screening twice a year for grades K-3 for dyslexia and other learning disorders. She asked if the end of year report will be available to parents and also that teachers should stay true to the curriculum.

Board President Carbonell asked Mrs. Zatta to email Mrs. Minneci and Mrs. Faria and asked the Education Committee to look into that testing to be given to parents so that parents can work with their students.

Luisa Biase – she is glad that the TREPS program is back; it is an amazing program. KMS and the PTA work well together. Mr. Petras is amazing and the students had an amazing car wash. UHS awards – we have amazing staff and students. She indicated she still has concerns with the bathrooms at UHS and monitoring them for vaping.

Board President Carbonell asked Mrs. Biase to email Mr. Nasta and Mrs. Conteh-Mackey with her concerns and they will look into it. Dr. Benaquista indicated that the students now need to scan to enter the bathrooms.

Virginia Jeffries – indicated her concerns with the agenda – F-25-27, F-30-F-32, F-38, the challenges in funding, asked if the time to speak could be extended to five minutes and there were additional bills added to the agenda since the last meeting.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:**

There being no further business before the Board in public session it was moved by Mrs. Minneci, seconded by Mrs. Faria, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

*Yolanda Koon*

YOLANDA KOON  
BOARD SECRETARY

