

TOWNSHIP OF UNION BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING/BUDGET HEARING MINUTES – April 24, 2024

NOTICE OF MEETING:

TO ALL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS:

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Township of Union was held on Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the Township of Union, Town Hall, Main Meeting Room, 1976 Morris Avenue, Union, New Jersey pursuant to notice sent to each member.

Ms. Santana called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:

Mr. Michael Cohan, Mrs. Elsie Conteh-Mackey, Mr. Ronnie McDowell, Mrs. Nancy Minneci, Ms. Chastity Santana

ABSENT AT ROLL CALL:

Ms. Dixiana Carbonell, Mr. Greg Nasta, Mrs. Kimberly Scott-Hayden, Mrs. Mary Lynn Williams (all arrived at 6:05 p.m.)

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Yolanda Greene, Esq.; Craig Novak, Esq.

Mr. McDowell led the Board and audience members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. McDowell 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 Mr. Cohan, seconded by Mrs. Conteh-Mackey, that the Board go into Executive Session at 6:03 p.m. to discuss the following subject matters without the presence of the public in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b: personnel, legal, student matters.

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

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

AYE: Mr. Cohan, Mrs. Conteh-Mackey, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Minneci, Ms. Santana

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

The Board returned to public session at 6:58 p.m.

F. Approval of Minutes:

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

1. March 12, 2024 – Special Meeting
2. March 12, 2024 - Executive Session
3. March 15, 2024 – Special Meeting/Ethics-HIB Trainings
4. March 16, 2024 – Special Meeting/Board Retreat
5. March 19, 2024 – Worksession
6. March 19, 2024 – Executive Session No. 1 and 2
7. March 26, 2024 – Regular Meeting
8. March 26, 2024 – Executive Session

DISCUSSION:

None

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Mrs. Williams (#1-6)

MOTION CARRIED

Communications:

LETTER OF RESIGNATION – KRYGOSKI

Letter of resignation, for the purpose of retirement, from Patricia Krygoski, special education teacher-Burnet Middle School, effective July 1, 2024.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION – OSEI-TUTU

Letter of resignation, for the purpose of retirement, from Kwaku Osei-Tutu, social studies teacher-Union High School, effective October 31, 2024.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION – ZAWACKI

Letter of resignation, for the purpose of retirement, from Suzanne Zawacki, special education teacher-Kawameeh Middle School, effective July 1, 2024.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION – JEKLINSKI

Letter of resignation from Jonathan Jeklinski, career ed/business teacher-Union High School, effective July 1, 2024.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE – RODRIGUES

Request for paid child rearing leave followed by unpaid FMLA/NJFLA from Ana Rodrigues, CST-Burnet Middle School, May 28, 2024-December 3, 2024.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE – SAAVEDRA

Request for paid medical leave from Angela Saavedra, third grade teacher-Hannah Caldwell Elementary School, April 15, 2024-May 10, 2024.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE – VIGIL

Request for paid child rearing leave followed by unpaid FMLA/NJFLA from Alexis Vigil, first grade teacher-Washington Elementary School, September 3, 2024-December 23, 2024.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE – MOTTA

Request for paid child rearing leave followed by unpaid FMLA/JFLA from Jessica Motta, social studies teacher-Union High School, June 3, 2024-November 25, 2024.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE - DIONISIO

Request for paid child rearing leave followed by unpaid FMLA/NJFLA leave from Nancy Dionisio, OT-Washington Elementary School, September 1, 2024-September 1, 2025.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE UPDATE – RICHARDONE

Request for leave update from Nicole Richardone, new return date February 1, 2025.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE UPDATE – KLEIN

Request for leave update from Peter Klein, CST-Union High School, new return date April 8, 2024.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE UPDATE – SINGER

Request for leave update from Corinne Singer, science teacher-Kawameeh Middle School, new return date September 1, 2025.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE UPDATE – BABIERI

Request for leave update from Jessica Barbieri, ESL teacher-Jefferson School, new return date September 1, 2025.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE UPDATE – DUPLISSI

Request for leave update from Kerri Duplissi, PE teacher-Hannah Caldwell Elementary School, new return date September 1, 2025.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE UPDATE – KLEIN

Request for leave update from Peter Klein, CST-Union High School, new return date June 1, 2024.

REQUEST FOR INTERMITTENT LEAVE – WHITFORD

Request for intermittent FMLA/NJFLA leave from Lauren Whitford, math teacher-Kawameeh Middle School, March 21, 2024-March 4, 2025.

REQUEST FOR INTERMITTENT LEAVE – WHITE

Request for intermittent FMLA/NJFLA leave from Daniel White, social studies teacher-Burnet Middle School, March 27, 2024-June 20, 2024.

REQUEST FOR INTERMITTENT LEAVE – OSBORNE

Request for intermittent FMLA followed by unpaid FMLA from Nicole Osborne, ICS teacher-Kawameeh Middle School, March 26, 2024-March 26, 2025.

Ms. Santana asked for a moment of silence for Congressman Donald Payne who had passed away. Congressman Payne served six terms in congress – improve all Americans, Medicare for all, champion for equity, clean drinking water and a friend to Union. Condolences to his family.

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

None

Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Benaquista announced the 2023-2024 Teachers' of the Year:

- Susan Craig, Battle Hill Elementary School
- Jessica Mendes, Franklin Elementary School
- Salomon Lama, Burnet Middle School
- Cynthia Carhart, Connecticut Farms Elementary School
- Michelle Sharago, Livingston Elementary School
- Christina Digioia, Hannah Caldwell Elementary School
- Kathy Lombardo, Jefferson School
- Catherine Martins, Kawameeh Middle School
- Michael Fiorito, Union High School
- Cindi Attanasi, Washington Elementary School

Daniel Riggle, Schneider Electric gave a presentation on ESIP Savings – a summary is below and the presentation is appended to the minutes:

Project Goals – (a) reduce energy and operational costs, (b) improve indoor air quality and comfort and (c) fund major capital needs.

Budget Neutral Project – zero taxpayer impact

Timeline:

- 2018 – local government energy audit
- July 2019 – RFP for an Energy Services Company

- 2019-2020 – project development and approvals
- October 2020-February 2021 – financing and construction contracts
- 2021-2022 – construction
- June 2023-June 2024 – measurement and verification period (year 1)

Projects completed:

- Solar PV at all 10 schools
- New ceilings – Burnet Middle School and Battle Hill Elementary School
- New electrical transformers – Union High School
- New rooftop units and HVAC – Union High School
- New boilers – Franklin Elementary School
- New chiller – Hannah Caldwell Elementary School
- New cooling tower – Hannah Caldwell Elementary School
- Roofing upgrades – across six schools

Projected vs. Actual Solar Production – overall: 101% of expected.

Measurement and verification: Total Energy Usage:

- 6 months into 12-month measurement and verification period
- Not all meters are being tracked/normalized (focus – UHS, Burnet and Hannah Caldwell)
- Adjustments due to hours of operation
- Savings appear to be right on target
- One-year savings report expected in fall

Dr. Benaquista stated Mr. Riggle will be back in a few months with another update.

This month is Arab American Heritage Month – there are books displayed in the library; announcements will include accomplishments highlighting Arabs and Arab Americans; and teachers will highlight accomplishments within their classrooms.

HIB – March 27, 2024-April 16, 2024 – affirmed – 5 founded/3 unfounded/5 inconclusive; UHS-33A was reinvestigated and founded.

HIB – April 17, 2024-April 24, 2024 – reported – 3 founded/0 unfounded/0 inconclusive

Student Liaison – Neissa Filias presented the March-April highlights:

- Take your child to work day – April 24th
- Commitment Day – May 1, 2024 – UHS seniors wear shirts that represent where they will be going
- Spring sports – currently 280 high school student athletes participating in 7 spring sports: spring track – boys and girls, girls flag football, baseball, softball, boys volleyball, boys tennis and golf
- 140 middle school students participating in baseball, softball, track and volleyball

- April 5th – UHS girls flag football team played their first game in UHS history. Defeated New Brunswick 39-14
- UHS track program – competed in East Brunswick Invitation on April 13th. Girls spring medley relay finished first – Cassidy Kidd, Mikarla Portunado, Liyanna Muscat and J’Nay Camara. Laura Onwunali finished first in girls high jump. Girls spring medley relay finished first and qualified for nationals at the Morris Hills Relays on April 20th.

There were no changes to the FY25 budget that was presented at the March Board meetings.

Education/Student Discipline Committee Resolutions:

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

E-1. *Agenda item approved at April 16, 2024 worksession (affirm HIB – March 20-March 26, 2024)*

E-1A. *Agenda item reported at April 16, 2024 worksession (report of HIB-March 27-April 16, 2024)*

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

Affirm the Superintendent’s determination of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) for the periods March 27, 2024 to April 16, 2024, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

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

Superintendent’s Report of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) for the period April 17, 2024 to April 24, 2024, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes (*no vote required; for reporting purposes only*).

E-2. APPROVE CURRICULA

Approve the following curricula: (1) Grade 8 SS – US History, (2) World History, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

E-3. APPROVE FOR THE LOVE OF LITERACY – ELA PARENT WORKSHOPS

Approve For the Love of Literacy to coordinate ELA Parent Workshops for the Township of Union families, in the amount of \$3,600.00 [to be paid for using Title IV Funds Account #8500], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

E-4. APPROVE INLINGUA – TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETATION SERVICES

Approve Inlingua to provide translation and interpretation services to the district until August 31, 2024 [to be paid for using Title III Immigrant Funds, not to exceed \$15,000.00], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

E-5. APPROVE SUBMISSION OF SAFE RETURN PLAN

Approve submission of the Safe Return Plan to be completed every six (6) months to the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE).

E-6. APPROVE UPDATED 2023-2024 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Approve updated 2023-2024 school calendar, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

DISCUSSION:

None

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Fiscal and Planning Committee Resolutions:

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

F-1. TREASURER’S REPORT

That the Treasurer’s Report dated March 31, 2024 be accepted.

F-2. SECRETARY’S REPORT

That the Secretary’s Report dated March 31, 2024 be accepted.

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

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(a), I certify that as of March 31, 2024 no budgetary line item account has obligations and payments (contractual orders) which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the district Board of education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8 and 18:22-8.1.

/s/ Yolanda Koon
Yolanda Koon, Board Secretary

Dated

Pursuant to N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.2(h), we certify that as of March 31, 2024 after review of the secretary’s monthly financial report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials that to the best of our knowledge no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.2(d)3 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district’s financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year. This certification is solely based on the information provided by the School Business Administrator and Board Secretary and is assumed by the Board to be correct.

F-4. APPROVE APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS

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

F-5. APPROVE LIST OF CONTRACTS/PURCHASE ORDERS

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

F-6. APPROVE DISTRICT WIDE TRAVEL AND RELATED EXPENSES

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

F-7. Agenda item approved at April 16, 2024 worksession (student field trips).

F-7A. APPROVE DISTRICTWIDE STUDENT FIELD TRIPS

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

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

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

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

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

School	Account/Department	Vendor/Description	Amount
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	\$2,000.00
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	Connect One Bank – Student TBD	\$1,000.00
Union High School	2018/Senior Awards	The Vogel Memorial Prize for the Excellence in French – Student TBD	\$1,000.00
Union High School	2018/Senior Awards	Joseph Cryan Scholarship – Student TBD	\$2,000.00
Union High School	2018/Senior Awards	Juneteenth Scholarship – Student TBD	\$1,000.00

Union High School	2018/Senior Awards	Juneteenth Scholarship – Student TBD	\$1,000.00
Union High School	2018/Senior Awards	Jason Lopes Scholarship – Student TBD	\$1,000.00
Union High School	2018/Senior Awards	Crystal Scretchen Scholarship – Student TBD	\$1,000.00
Union High School	2018/Senior Awards	Chamber of Commerce Scholarship – Student TBD (2-4 year college)	\$3,000.00
Union High School	2018/Senior Awards	Chamber of Commerce Scholarship – Student TBD (vocational school)	\$3,000.00
Union High School	NHS	Great Adventure/Sunny Trails – Honor Society Class Trip	\$5,137.50
Union High School	3340/Athletics	Finest Chocolate – estimate for girls’ softball chocolate fundraiser	\$3,720.00 (not to exceed)
Union High School	3340/Athletics	Costa Del Sol – estimate for softball end of season banquet	\$4,000.00 (not to exceed)
Livingston Elementary School	Main Office	NED Show – sale of yoyo’s to offset costs	\$1,070.00
Burnet Middle School	2011/School Play-Drama	Hellhound Audio – sound and lighting for school play	\$6,615.00
Burnet Middle School	2018	Township of Union Board of Education – Chromebook fines to BOE	\$4,500.00
Kawameeh Middle School	5/Administration	Township of Union Board of Education – Chromebook fines – September 2023-March 2024	\$1,500.00 (not to exceed)
Kawameeh Middle School	41/Musical Production	Paige Matt – choreography for Moana Jr. (March 14-16, 2024)	\$1,000.00
Kawameeh Middle School	41/Musical Production	Audio Inc. – sound production for Moana Jr. performances and rehearsals	\$6,200.00 (not to exceed)
Kawameeh Middle School	41/Music	EPN Travel Services – remaining balance for music in the Parks competition at Dorney Park (May 10, 2024)	\$1,424.00
Kawameeh Middle School	41/Musical Production	TheatreWorld Backdrops – for backdrop rental used for KMS musical Moana Jr.	\$1,268.97
Kawameeh Middle School	41/Musical Production	Pulse Stage Lighting – lighting services for Moana Jr. performances and rehearsals	\$4,900.00 (not to exceed)
Kawameeh Middle School	41/Musical Production	C&R Graphics – Playbills for musical production of Moana jr.	\$1,800.00

F-9B. APPROVE FUNDRAISERS

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

Event Name	Date	Purpose
Student Council Fundraiser	April 25, 2024-June 30, 2024	BMS/Student Council – community service project to raise funds for classroom charging stations
Snack Sale	April 25, 2024-May 2, 2024	Franklin Elementary/PBSIS and House Systems – to raise funds to support PBSIS and house systems activities
Bake Sale	May 1-31, 2024	UHS/Key Club – to raise funds to reduce club fees
Bake Sale	April 25-26, 2024	UHS/National Honor Society – to raise funds for Six Flags Trip
Farmer Feud Game Show Night	April 25-May 10, 2024	UHS/Class of 2026 – to raise funds for Class of 2026
Bake Sale	April 30, 2024	UHS/Dance Team – to raise funds for field trip, future competitions and attire
Rice Krispies Treat Sale	May 7, 2024	UHS/Dance Team – to raise funds for field trips, competitions, transportation and gear
Online Fundraiser	August 28, 2024-October 31, 2024	UHS/Field Hockey – to raise funds to purchase additional equipment, end of season party for team, purchase trophies and awards
End of Year Banquet	April 25, 2024-May 1, 2024	UHSPAC/Marching Band – funds collected will help cover cost of banquet (no cost to students)
Student-Directed Production Ticket Sales	April 25, 2024-June 2, 2024	UHS/Advanced Musical Theatre – ticket sales will help cover cost of production of You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown
BSN Fundraiser	April 25, 2024-May 31, 2024	UHS/Girls Flag Football – to raise funds for end of year activities
Hot Pop Sale YWP Mother's Day Flower Sale YWP Spring Fashion Show-Ticket Sale YWP Family Bowling Fundraiser	April 26, 2024-May 3, 2024 May 6-10, 2024 April 27, 2024-May 23, 2024 May 28, 2024-June 7, 2024	KMS/Young Women of Purpose – to raise funds to support club activities and events
Johnny Napkins	April 25, 2024-June 30, 2024	UHS/Softball – to raise funds for senior day, end of year activities

F-9C. ACCEPT DONATIONS

Accept the following donations:

From	For Use By	\$/Item
Reading for Education	Livingston Elementary School	\$1,017.61
The Goodies Factory, Inc.	Union High School/Marching Band	\$1,055.50
Mr. Lenny DiGena PBA Local #69	UHS 2024 Award/Policeman's Benevolent Association 2024 Award	\$1,000.00
Mr. & Mrs. Syed Shahid	UHS 2024 Award/Khalid Shahid Memorial Scholarship	\$2,000.00 \$2,000.00
Mrs. Marie Canarelli	UHS 2024 Award/Douglas M. Krueger Memorial Scholarship	\$1,000.00

Ms. Arlene Russo	UHS 2024 Award/Wayne Russo Memorial Scholarship	\$2,500.00
Ms. Brittany Cafasso	UHS 2024 Award/Connect One Bank	\$1,000.00 \$1,000.00
Ms. Martha Goodman	UHS 2024 Award/The Vogel Memorial Prize for the Excellence in French	\$1,000.00
Mr. Anthony Russo	UHS 2024 Award/Joseph Cryan Scholarship	\$2,000.00
Ms. Mickaela Bland	UHS 2024 Award/Juneteenth Scholarship	\$1,000.00 \$1,000.00
Battle Hill PTA	UHS 2024 Award/Jason Lopes Scholarship	\$1,000.00
Union Diner	Special Services Picnic – May 21, 2024 (rain date May 29, 2024)	Food and services

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

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

F-11. APPROVE FRONTLINE

Approve Frontline, the district's program for absence management (AESOP), professional growth (certified staff professional development and evaluations), IEP (special education), 504 interventions, recruiting and hiring (AppliTrack) and time and attendance for the 2024-2025 school year, in the amount of \$100,531.42, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-12. 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) \$100 – Dora D. Feins Achievement Awards Fund (cost of two plaques), (c) \$100 – Myrtle V. Hassey Awards Fund (two awards - \$50 each), (d) \$1,500 – Ellen S. Rever Memorial Scholarship Fund (three awards - \$500 each).

F-13. APPROVE NONPUBLIC SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE PROGRAM SPENDING PLAN – UCESC

Approve the Union County Educational Services Commission (UCESC) Nonpublic School Technology Initiative Program spending plan for United Academy of Union located within the district for the 2023-2024 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-14. APPROVE NONPUBLIC SCHOOL SECURITY INITIATIVE PROGRAM SPENDING PLAN – UCESC

Approve the Union County Educational Services Commission (UCESC) Nonpublic School Security Initiative Program spending plan for United Academy of Union located within the district for the 2023-2024 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-15. APPROVE TRANSPORTATION SERVICE AGREEMENT CONTRACT – ERESC

Approve Transportation Service Agreement Contract for the 2024-2025 school year with Essex Regional Educational Services Commission (ERESC), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-16. APPROVE TUITION CONTRACT AGREEMENT – MILLVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Approve Tuition Contract Agreement with Millville Board of Education for the 2023-2024 school year (Student #260580) at the annual tuition rate of \$17,780.00 (\$98.78 per diem/\$1,778.00 per month), in accordance with the non-public information appended to the minutes.

F-17. APPROVE TUITION CONTRACT AGREEMENT – EDISON BOARD OF EDUCATION

Approve Tuition Contract Agreement with Edison Board of Education for the 2023-2024 school year (Student #309035) at the annual tuition rate of \$15,989.00 (prorated), in accordance with the non-public information appended to the minutes.

F-18. APPROVE PETTY CASH FUND FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

Approve the Board Secretary petty cash fund for the 2024-2025 school year: Fund-Board Secretary, Amount: \$500 per month (not to exceed \$6,000.00); Responsible Party: Board Secretary.

F-19. APPROVE APPLICATION OF 2024 NJSIG SAFETY GRANT - \$19,188.00

Approve application of the 2024 NJSIG Safety Grant in the amount of \$19,188.00.

F-20. APPROVE MARILYN KUBICHEK, M.D. – EVALUATIONS

Approve Marilyn Kubichek, M.D. to provide neurological evaluations and neurodevelopmental evaluations at the rate of \$675.00 per evaluation for the 2024-2025 school year (not to exceed \$19,500.00) [Fund Account #11-000-219-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-21. APPROVE ROMANA KULIKOVA, M.D. – EVALUATIONS

Approve Romana Kulikova, M.D. to provide neurological evaluations and neurodevelopmental evaluations at the rate of \$600.00 per evaluation in office and \$650.00 for evaluations in school for the 2024-2025 school year (not to exceed \$24,000.00) [Fund Account #11-000-219-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-22. APPROVE LEARNING TREE MULTILINGUAL EVALUATION AND CONSULTING – EVALUATIONS

Approve Learning Tree Multilingual Evaluation and Consulting to conduct education, speech/language, social history, and psychological evaluations for district students at the following costs: (a) in Spanish-\$800.00/per evaluation, and (b) in other languages-\$850.00/per evaluation for the 2024-2025 school year (not to exceed \$5,000.00) [Fund Account #11-000-219-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-23. APPROVE GREAT BEGINNINGS – EVALUATIONS

Approve Great Beginnings, Dr. Debora Buzinkai, for the following evaluations: (a) dyslexia evaluation - \$1,350.00, (b) dysgraphia evaluation - \$1,350.00, (c) dyscalculia evaluation - \$1,350.00, (d) psychological evaluation - \$800.00, (e) psychoeducational evaluation - \$1,800.00, and (f) complete neuropsychological evaluation - \$3,200.00 for the 2024-2025 school year (not to exceed \$5,000.00) [Fund Account #11-000-219-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-24. APPROVE TECH ABILITIES CONSULTING – EVALUATIONS

Approve Tech Abilities Consulting to provide the following evaluations for district students: (a) assistive technology evaluations - \$875.00/per evaluation, (b) augmentative communication evaluation - \$1,000.00/per evaluation, (c) assistive technological or AAC consultation - \$150.00/per hour for the 2024-2025 school year (not to exceed \$20,000.00) [Fund Account #11-000-219-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-25. APPROVE PREFERRED HOME HEALTH CARE AND NURSING SERVICES – NURSING SERVICES

Approve Preferred Home Health Care and Nursing Services to provide nursing services at the rate of \$63.00/RN and \$56.00/LPN for the 2024-2025 school year (not to exceed \$60,000.00) [Fund Account #11-000-216-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-26. APPROVE CROSS COUNTY CLINICAL AND EDUCATION SERVICES – EVALUATIONS

Approve Cross County Clinical and Education Services to provide bilingual evaluations at the rate of \$980.00 per evaluation for the 2024-2025 school year (not to exceed \$3,920.00) [Fund Account #11-000-219-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-27. APPROVE ASSISTIVE TEK – ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Approve Assistive Tek to provide assistive technology evaluations at the rate of \$1,750.00 per evaluation for the 2024-2025 school year (not to exceed \$5,250.00) [Fund Account #11-000-219-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-28. APPROVE COUNSELING CENTERS FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT – MENTAL HEALTH SCREENINGS

Approve Counseling Centers for Human Development for mental health screening (#90791 – Initial Diagnostic Interview) at the rate of \$225.00 per screening for the 2024-2025 school year (not to exceed \$1,350.00) [Fund Account #11-000-219-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-29. 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 for the

2024-2025 school year (not to exceed \$3,800.00) [Fund Account #11-000-219-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-30. APPROVE STARLIGHT HOMECARE AGENCY – NURSING SERVICES

Approve Starlight Homecare Agency to provide nursing services, at the rate of \$63.00/RN and \$53.00/LPN for the 2024-2025 school year (not to exceed \$63,000.00) [Fund Account #11-000-216-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-31. APPROVE CHILDREN SPECIALIZED HOSPITAL SCHOOL SERVICES – SPEECH THERAPY

Approve Children Specialized Hospital School Services to provide speech therapy at the rate of \$94.00/hr. for the 2023-2024 school year (not to exceed \$60,000.00) [Fund Account #11-000-216-320-01-19], in accordance with the information available to the Board members.

F-32. APPROVE RESOLUTION/AGREEMENT FOR PARTICIPATION IN COORDINATED TRANSPORTATION SERVICES – UCESC

Approve Resolution/Agreement for Participation in Coordinated Transportation Services with the Union County Educational Services Commission for the 2024-2025 school year, in accordance with the information in the hands of each Board member.

Resolutions F-33through F-39

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

F-33. APPROVE GENERAL FUND TAX LEVY – FINAL BUDGET

Approve the General Fund tax levy of \$106,048,985.00 in the 2024-2025 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-34. APPROVE TRAVEL EXPENDITURE MAXIMUM

Approve Travel Expenditure Maximum (not to exceed \$85,000.00) for the 2024-2025 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-35 APPROVE ESTABLISHING A MAXIMUM DOLLAR LIMIT – PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Approve establishing a maximum dollar limit for professional services \$8,515,980.00 for the 2024-2025 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-36. APPROVE USE OF EXCESS SURPLUS FUNDS/FUND BALANCE

Approve the Board of Education to include in the General Fund Budget \$2,497,298.00 of the Board of Education's excess surplus funds \$1,970.21 and additional fund balance \$2,495,327.79 (@ 6/30/23 per audit) to help close budget gap.

F-37 APPROVE BANKED CAP

Approve in the final budget the adjustment for banked cap in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-10.1(b). The district has fully exhausted all eligible statutory spending authority and

must increase the base budget in the amount of \$352,129.00 for the purpose of instructional supplies and materials. The district intends to complete said purposes by June 2025.

F-38 APPROVE USE OF ENROLLMENT ADJUSTMENT

Approve in the final budget the adjustment for enrollment in the amount of \$1,187,368.00 in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-15.3. The district has fully exhausted all eligible statutory spending authority. The adjustment will be used for instructional supplies and transportation costs and will complete this by June 30, 2025 and acknowledges that it cannot be deferred or incrementally completed over a longer period of time.

F-39 APPROVE ADJUSTMENT FOR HEALTH CARE COSTS

Approve in the final budget the adjustment for increased costs of health benefits in the amount of \$850,535.00. The additional funds will be used to pay for the additional increases in health benefit premiums.

F-40. *For informational purposes only – vote not required.* List of legal services for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-41. APPROVE AUTHORIZATION TO CANCEL OLD CHECKS

Approve authorization to cancel old checks (dating back as far as 2011) from Agency Account as recommended by Suplee, Clooney & Company, district auditors and transferring funds to Operating Accounts, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

DISCUSSION:

None

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Operations Committee Resolutions:

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

O-1. APPROVE SECURITY DRILL/BUS EVACUATION REPORTS

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

O-2. *Agenda item approved at April 16, 2024 worksession (Family House for School/Family Connection-Franklin Elementary School)*

O-3. APPROVE UNIFIED CHAMPION SCHOOLS FIELD DAY AND RESPECT WEEK CAMPAIGN

Approve Unified Champion Schools Field Day and Respect Week campaign to take place within the Township of Union Public Schools on May 17, 2024 (rain date May 21, 2024), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

O-4. APPROVE SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FOR USE OF RABKIN PARK

Approve the submission of the Picnic Area Application and Hold Harmless Agreement for the use of Rabkin Park on May 21, 2024 (rain date May 29, 2024) to the Union Township Parks and Recreation Department for the Special Services picnic, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

O-5. REQUEST FROM C.A.S.T. TO USE DISTRICT FACILITIES

Request from Community Actors’ Student Theatre (CAST) to use district facilities, during the month of July (for rehearsals) and August 1, 2 and 3 for performances, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

DISCUSSION:

None

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Mr. Nasta

MOTION CARRIED

Personnel Committee Resolutions:

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

P-1A. PERSONNEL ACTIONS – NEW HIRES

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

P-1B PERSONNEL ACTIONS – EXTRA PAY

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

P-1C PERSONNEL ACTIONS – TRANSFERS – *none as of this date*

P-2. APPROVE SUBSTITUTE LISTS

Approve Substitute Lists for the 2023-2024 school year.

Name	Position	Rate
Luis D. Bastidas Esquivel	Sub-custodian	\$16.00/hr.
Muhamed Becovic	Sub-custodian	\$16.00/hr.
Kevin Ortiz	Sub-custodian	\$16.00/hr.

Janita B. Auguste	Sub-custodian	\$16.00/hr.
Austin Caceres	Daily sub	\$120.00/per day
Osvaldo Rodrigues Morales*	Daily sub	\$120.00/per day
Sabir Alim*	Daily sub	\$120.00/per day
Bahia Moorman	Daily sub	\$120.00/per day
Peter Buckley	Daily sub	\$120.00/per day

*Pending completed 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	Notes
Patricia Krygoski	Special ed teacher	Burnet	07/1/2024	Retirement	
Kwaku Osei-Tutu	Social studies teacher	UHS	10/31/2024	Retirement	
Suzanne Zawacki	Special ed teacher	Kawameeh	7/1/2024	Retirement	
Jonathan Jeklinski	Career Ed/ Business teacher	UHS	7/1/2024	Resignation	

P-3B. APPROVE LEAVES

Approve leaves for the following staff:

Name	Position	Location	Leave Dates	Leave Type	Notes
Ana Rodrigues	CST	Burnet	5/28/2024- 12/3/2024	Paid child rearing leave followed by unpaid FMLA/ NJFLA	
Angela Saavedra	3 rd grade teacher	Hannah Caldwell	4/15/2024- 5/10/2024	Paid medical leave	
Nicole Richardone	Math teacher	UHS	New return date 2/1/2025	Revised return date	
Peter Klein	CST	UHS	New return date 4/8/2024	Revised return date	
Corinne Singer	Science teacher	Kawameeh	New return date 9/1/2025	Revised return date	
Jessica Barbieri	ESL teacher	Jefferson	New return date 9/1/2025	Revised return date	
Kerri Duplissi	PE teacher	Hannah Caldwell	New return date 9/1/2025	Revised return date	
Peter Klein	CST	UHS	New return date 6/1/2024	Revised return date	
Nancy Dionisio	OT	Washington	9/1/2024- 9/1/2025	Paid child rearing leave followed by unpaid FMLA/ NJFLA	

Alexis Vigil	1 st grade teacher	Washington	9/3/2024-12/23/2024	Paid child rearing leave followed by unpaid FMLA/NJFLA	
Jessica Motta	Social studies teacher	UHS	6/3/2024-11/25/2024	Paid child rearing leave followed by unpaid FMLA/NJFLA	
Lauren Whitford	Math teacher	Kawameeh	Intermittent leave 3/21/2024-3/4/2025	Intermittent FMLA/NJFLA	
Daniel White	Social studies teacher	Burnet	Intermittent leave 3/27/2024-6/20/2024	Intermittent FMLA/NJFLA	
Nicole Osborne	ICS teacher	Kawameeh	Intermittent leave 3/26/2024-3/26/2025	Intermittent FMLA followed by unpaid FMLA	

P-4. APPROVE ATTENDANCE AT NJASBO ANNUAL CONFERENCE - KOON
 Approve Yolanda Koon, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, to attend the NJASBO Annual Conference in Atlantic City, New Jersey (June 5-7, 2024) for a total cost not to exceed \$1,600.00.

P-5. APPROVE NEW JERSEY COALITION FOR INCLUSIVE EDUCATION – PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
 Approve the New Jersey Coalition for Inclusive Education to provide two (2) hours of professional development on co-teaching (not to exceed \$1,250.00) for the 2023-2024 school year [Fund Account #11-000-219-320-02-19/7075], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

P-6. *Agenda item approved at April 16, 2024 worksession (Employment Contract-Assistant Superintendent-Marissa McKenzie).*

P-7. APPROVE JOB DESCRIPTION – MENTAL HEALTH CLINICIAN
 Approve Mental Health Clinician Job Description, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

P-8. APPROVE JOB DESCRIPTION – MANAGER OF SCHOOL-BASED CLINICAL SERVICES
 Approve Manager of School-Based Clinical Services Job Description, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

P-9. APPROVE TO ABOLISH ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS POSITION/JOB DESCRIPTION

Approve to abolish the Assistant Superintendent of Schools position/job description for the reasons of fiscal and/or operations, effective the 30th day of June 2024.

P-10. APPROVE TO ABOLISH ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, ASSESSMENT AND FUNDED PROGRAM POSITION/JOB DESCRIPTION

Approve to abolish the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment, and Funded Programs position/job description for the reasons of fiscal and/or operations, effective the 30th day of June 2024.

P-11. APPROVE JOB DESCRIPTION – ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Approve Job Description – Assistant Superintendent of Student Support Services, effective the 1st day of July 2024, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

DISCUSSION:

None

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

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. Williams, seconded by Mrs. Minneci for final reading and adoption:

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

Approve Policy 5111 – Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

POL-2. APPROVE REGULATION 5111 – ELIGIBILITY OF RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT STUDENTS (M)

Approve Regulation 5111 – Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

DISCUSSION:

None

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Residency Committee Resolutions:

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following resolutions were reported by Mrs. Minneci:

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
#266552	Union High School – 10 th grade
#270581	Union High School – 9 th grade

For informational purposes only (no vote required): The following totals are as of the March 26, 2024 Board meeting (2023-2024 school year):

Students Removed:	2
Students Voluntarily Transferred:	27

Technology Committee:

Mr. McDowell stated there was a Genesis outage on April 13 and it was restored in a timely manner.

Approval of Bills:

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

DISCUSSION:

None

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Unfinished Business:

Mrs. Conteh-Mackey stated the outsourcing of bus transportation - there are a lot of issues with non-verbal students. They are not our employees. Hopefully one day we can have our own people transporting our students because our employees are vested in our students. She stated she rode on the buses and our students behaved when we were on the bus. She thanked transportation for all that they do.

New Business:

Mrs. Scott-Hayden stated there is a program called Imagine and it is offered in Union County and free of charge. They offer counseling and therapy and she gave the pamphlets to Dr. Benaquista to share with the schools and guidance.

Happy Administrative Professional Day to our staff and happy belated Transportation Day to our bus drivers.

She knows Congressman Payne's work and dedication. He will be missed and she hopes his successor has an open heart too. Condolences to his family.

Ms. Carbonell stated she attended the autism walk on Saturday at Hannah Caldwell. Congratulations to the 2023-2024 teachers of the year. She also stated she toured the new library and looks forward to it being opened.

Congressman Payne was a leader, a great son and father. He will be missed. Prayers to his family.

Mrs. Minneci stated SEPAG meetings are once a month via Zoom and she encourages everyone to log on.

Ms. Santana gave a shout out to the JV/Varsity boys baseball team – they have three wins.

MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Moved by Mr. Cohan, seconded by Mrs. Williams, that the Board go into Executive Session at 8:07 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: legal update, student matters.

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

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

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

The Board returned to public session at 9:28 p.m.

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

F-42. APPROVE INCREASE TO PURCHASE ORDER – Special Related Services
Approve to increase several Special Related Service Purchase Orders (123ABA, LLC, Positive Behavior, First Children Svc., Kid Clan Svc. and Our House) not to exceed \$1,168,000.00 (\$1,098,000 + \$70,000.00) to provide BT’s and community-based employment services to district students for the remaining school year 2023-2024. Funds have been verified.

DISCUSSION:

None

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

NAY: Mrs. Conteh-Mackey, Mr. McDowell

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

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

R-2. APPROVE REMOVAL OF STUDENTS FROM ROLLS

Approve to remove the following students from the attendance rolls as the student has been determined to be ineligible to attend the Township of Union Public Schools as a resident student:

Student No.	School
#298236	Burnet Middle School
#300055	Burnet Middle School
#241047	Union High School
#310010	Jefferson School
#348161	Hannah Caldwell Elementary School
#370781	Hannah Caldwell Elementary School
#330255	Connecticut Farms Elementary School
#350260	Connecticut Farms Elementary School
#281044	Kawameeh Middle School
#320571	Franklin Elementary School

DISCUSSION:

None

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

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

E-7. APPROVE SUSPENSION – STUDENTS

Approve long-term suspension of student #240567 and student #256501 from the general education program, in accordance with the discussions during executive session.

DISCUSSION:

None

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the Board in public session it was moved by Mr. Cohan, seconded by Mrs. Williams, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Yolanda Koon

YOLANDA KOON
BOARD SECRETARY

