

TOWNSHIP OF UNION BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – October 17, 2023

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, October 17, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at the Union High School Library, 2350 North Third Street, Union, New Jersey pursuant to notice sent to each member.

Ms. McKenzie called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m.

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:

Ms. Dixiana Carbonell, Ms. Marissa McKenzie, Mrs. Nellis Regis-Darby, Mrs. Kimberly Scott-Hayden, Mrs. Mary Lynn Williams

ABSENT AT ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Yocasta Brens-Watson (5:36 p.m.), Mrs. Nancy Minneci, Mr. John O’Shea (5:33 p.m.), Ms. Chastity Santana

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Mr. Christopher Buggy, Esq.

Ms. Carbonell led the Board and audience members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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.

Ms. Carbonell read the district’s mission statement.

MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Moved by Mrs. Scott-Hayden, seconded by Mrs. Williams, that the Board go into Executive Session at 5:10 p.m. to discuss the following subject matters without the presence of the public in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b: personnel, security, litigation update.

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, Mrs. Regis-Darby, Mrs. Scott-Hayden, Mrs. Williams, Ms. McKenzie

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

The Board returned to public session at 7:03 p.m.

Ms. McKenzie stated the ROTC is here tonight for the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC ON RESOLUTIONS:

Jill Hall asked F-23 – is this specific to special education; how are they referred and will they do risk assessments for students.

Approval of Minutes:

Moved by Mrs. Scott-Hayden, seconded by Mrs. Williams, that the following minutes be approved:

1. September 12, 2023 – worksession
2. September 12, 2023 – executive session
3. September 19, 2023 – regular meeting
4. September 19, 2023 – executive session

DISCUSSION:

None

AYE: Mrs. Brens-Watson, Ms. Carbonell, Mr. O’Shea, Mrs. Regis-Darby,

Mrs. Scott-Hayden, Mrs. Williams, Ms. McKenzie

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Mr. O’Shea (September 19<sup>th</sup>)

MOTION CARRIED

Communications:

LETTER OF RESIGNATION – JOHNSON-SPIKES

Letter of resignation from Pearlene Johnson-Spikes, part-time bus aide-Transportation Department, effective September 11, 2023.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION – SANTIAGO

Letter of resignation from Felix Santiago, lead custodian (2<sup>nd</sup> shift)-Burnet Middle School, effective October 1, 2023.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION – BOHSE

Letter of resignation from Megan Bohse, school counselor-Union High School, effective October 1, 2023.

**LETTER OF RETIREMENT – BERNARDES**

Letter of resignation, for the purpose of retirement, from Joao Bernardes, English language arts teacher-Burnet Middle School, effective January 1, 2024.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE – ARRIETA**

Request for paid child rearing leave followed by unpaid FMLA/NJFLA (concurrently) from Tatiana Arrieta, visual arts teacher-Union High School, December 1, 2023-May 13, 2024.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE – CLARKE**

Request for paid FMLA from Teresa Clarke, special education teacher-Hannah Caldwell Elementary School, September 5, 2023-March 4, 2024.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE UPDATE – SINGER**

Updated request for paid child rearing leave followed by unpaid FMLA/NJFLA (concurrently) from Corinne Singer, science teacher-Kawameeh Middle School, October 23, 2023-September 1, 2024.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE – CASSIDY**

Request for paid medical leave from Donna Cassidy, fourth grade teacher-Livingston Elementary School, October 4, 2023-October 10, 2023.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE – DENNING**

Request for paid child rearing leave, followed by unpaid FMLA/NJFLA (concurrently), from Noa Denning, speech specialist teacher-Hannah Caldwell Elementary School, February 23, 2024-June 10, 2024.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE – MILLS**

Request for paid child rearing leave, followed by unpaid FMLA/NJFLA (concurrently), from Debra Mills, special education teacher-Washington Elementary School, January 2, 2024-June 18, 2024.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE – VOLTURO**

Request for paid sick leave, followed by unpaid leave, from Rose Volturo, math teacher-Kawameeh Middle School, September 14, 2023-November 1, 2023.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE – WATANABE**

Request for FMLA/NJFLA leave from Elizabeth Watanabe-special education teacher-Battle Hill Elementary School, November 13, 2023-March 27, 2024.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE – SADLER**

Request for paid medical leave from John Sadler, special education teacher-Union High School, September 29, 2023-October 31, 2023.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE – CONNOLLY**

Request for paid child rearing leave followed by unpaid FMLA/NJFLA (concurrently) from Dana Connolly, second grade teacher-Hannah Caldwell Elementary School, January 2, 2024-June 30, 2024.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE – MULLER**

Request for paid medical leave from Geraldine Muller, secretary-Union High School, October 2, 2023-November 13, 2023.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE – ALFARO**

Request for paid child rearing leave followed by unpaid FMLA/NJFLA (concurrently) from Ilesia Alfaro, custodian-Kawameeh Middle School, October 9, 2023-January 30, 2024.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE – MENONI**

Request for paid medical leave from Russell Menoni, physical education teacher-Washington Elementary School, October 2, 2023-November 17, 2023.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE – AMBROSE**

Request for FMLA sick leave followed by unpaid FMLA leave from Veronica Ambrose, third grade teacher-Battle Hill Elementary School, October 4, 2023-October 23, 2023.

**REQUEST FOR INTERMITTENT LEAVE UPDATE – CERCIELLO**

Updated request for unpaid intermittent FMLA/NJFLA leave from Luigi Cerciello, custodian-Livingston Elementary School, August 1, 2023-June 30, 2024.

**REQUEST FOR INTERMITTENT LEAVE – FRICKSON**

Request for paid intermittent FMLA, followed by unpaid FMLA/NJFLA, from Lisa Frickson, special education teacher-Battle Hill Elementary School.

**REQUEST FOR INTERMITTENT LEAVE – KRALY**

Request for paid intermittent FMLA, followed by unpaid FMLA/NJFLA, from John Kraly, fourth grade teacher-Washington Elementary School.

**REQUEST FOR INTERMITTENT LEAVE – McGUIRE**

Request for paid intermittent FMLA, followed by unpaid FMLA, from Nicole McGuire, third grade teacher-Battle Hill Elementary School, September 1, 2023-June 22, 2024.

**REQUEST FOR INTERMITTENT LEAVE – SIINO**

Request for paid intermittent FMLA followed by unpaid FMLA from Frances Siino, 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher-Battle Hill Elementary School, September 13, 2023-June 24, 2024.

**REQUEST FOR INTERMITTENT LEAVE – SNYDER**

Request for paid intermittent FMLA, followed by unpaid FMLA, from Katie Snyder, business education teacher-Union High School, September 7, 2023-June 24, 2024.

**REQUEST FOR INTERMITTENT LEAVE – ROYAL**

Request for paid intermittent FMLA, followed by unpaid FMLA/NJFLA, from Marcel Royal, behaviorist-Franklin Elementary School.

**Superintendent's Report:**

Dr. Benaquista stated Colonel Alvarado and Sergeant Schemel (JROTC) will present Cadet Riannah.

Sergeant Schemel stated that Cadet Riannah Mathurin was awarded the Legion of Valor of the United States of America, and this is the first time in the Union High School Army JROTC history that one of our cadets has won this extremely prestigious award.

Dr. Benaquista informed the Board that Back to School Night took place in September and the following were the total amount of attendees for each school:

UHS – 2538	BMS – 210	KMS – 340	CFES – 272
FES – 173	HCES – 239	JEFF – 322	LES – 426
BHES – 322	WES - 447		

October 16<sup>th</sup> through 20<sup>th</sup> is the State of New Jersey's "School Violence Awareness Week". School districts are entrusted with the vital task of organizing various activities to prevent school violence.

Community Collaboration – the Township of Union Mayor's 5K Race – the proceeds of the fundraiser was in support of two of our Washington Elementary School Students who are battling cancer – Camryn Dudek and Marciano Rosa. Despite undergoing rigorous treatments and continuing chemo, they come to school daily with a smile and ready to work hard. Camryn and Marciano walked the whole 5k with their families, fellow school students and staff.

National Hispanic Heritage Month was September 15<sup>th</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup>. The district had guest speakers from the Hispanic and Latino communities to share their experiences and insights with our students. Students had a chance to enjoy traditional Hispanic music, dance and art exhibitions. Teachers incorporated Hispanic and Latino themes into their curriculum. The district's school libraries featured a collection of books, articles and resources related to the Hispanic and Latino history and culture. Students engaged with local Hispanic and Latino organizations to promote unity and understanding within our broader community.

The ribbon cutting of the Harry R. Cook Memorial Field was October 13, 2023. Thank you to the Township.

**HIB Report:**

Affirmed – September 20-October 10, 2023 – 5 founded, 0 not founded, 4 inconclusive

Reported – October 11-17, 2023 – 5 founded, 1 not founded, 1 inconclusive

See presentation appended to minutes.

Neissa Filias, student liaison, presented the following:

- UHS Varsity Boys Soccer Team will play in the Union County Championship against Elizabeth on Sunday at Johnson High School in Clark; UHS defeated Scotch Plains in semi-finals 2-1; their record is currently 8-1-2
- UHS Football – Friday night at Ridge High School
- Girls Soccer Team – senior night game is against Dayton of Springfield. The team participated in a Breast Cancer Walk in honor of Jayne McEnerney, Coach Smith’s mother, who beat cancer on October 26, 2022
- UHS Field Hockey – next game is Friday.
- UHS Cross Country – Sean Casey (boys) and Cassidy Kidd (girls) came in first at the conference meet
- UHS Wrestlers and Baseball players volunteered at the Mayor’s 5K
- Middle School – Boys soccer team is currently undefeated 9-0
- Middle School – Girls Soccer team is 6-0-1
- Middle School – Football team is 3-0-1
- Union South Volleyball is 3-2
- Union North Volleyball is 5-0
- National Honor Society – is running a successful peer tutoring program out of Ms. Paleczny’s restorative practice room during lunch period; volunteered at the PTA clothing drive, freshman ice cream social and Washington Elementary School math night and they are selling pink ribbons for breast cancer to raise funds for Susan G. Komen

See presentation appended to minutes.

Dr. Benaquista informed the community and Board that College Night is October 18<sup>th</sup> at Union High School

#### Education/Student Discipline Committee Resolutions:

Ms. Carbonell congratulated Rianna and the ROTC.

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

*E-1. Agenda item reported at October 10, 2023 worksession (Superintendent Report of HIB – September 20-October 10, 2023)*

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

Affirm the Superintendent’s determination of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) for the periods September 20, 2023 to October 10, 2023, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

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

Superintendent’s Report of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) for the period October 11, 2023 to October 17, 2023, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes (*no vote required; for reporting purposes only*).

E-2. APPROVE SCHOOL NURSING SERVICES PLAN

Approve the 2023-2024 Nursing Services Plan, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

E-3. APPROVE VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION – 2023-2024

Approve Virtual Instruction Program and TUPS Virtual or Remote Instruction Plan Checklist for the 2023-2024 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

E-4. APPROVE NED’S MINDSET MISSION – ASSEMBLY AT WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Approve Ned’s Mindset Mission to present an assembly at Washington Elementary School to reinforce positive thinking, anti-bullying and the power of YET on November 30, 2023 for students in pre-k through 4<sup>th</sup> grade, at no cost to the district.

E-5. PROCLAIM OCTOBER AS INTERNATIONAL ALPHA DELTA KAPPA MONTH

Proclaim the month of October 2023 as International Alpha Delta Kappa Month, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

DISCUSSION:

Ms. Carbonell congratulated Rianna and the ROTC.

AYE: Mrs. Brens-Watson, Ms. Carbonell, Mr. O’Shea, Mrs. Regis-Darby, Mrs. Scott-Hayden, Mrs. Williams, Ms. McKenzie

NAY: Mrs. Regis-Darby (E-3)

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Fiscal and Planning Committee Resolutions:

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following resolutions were moved by Mr. O’Shea, seconded by Mrs. Brens-Watson, for approval:

F-1. TREASURER’S REPORT

That the Treasurer’s Report dated September 30, 2023 be accepted.

F-2. SECRETARY’S REPORT

That the Secretary’s Report dated September 30, 2023 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 September 30, 2023 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 September 30, 2023 after review of the secretary's monthly financial report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials that to the best of our knowledge no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.2(d)3 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year. This certification is solely based on the information provided by the School Business Administrator and Board Secretary and is assumed by the Board to be correct.

**F-4. APPROVE APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS**

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

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

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

**F-6. APPROVE DISTRICT WIDE TRAVEL AND RELATED EXPENSES**

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

**F-7. 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 VENDORS**

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

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

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

School	Account/Department	Vendor/Description	Amount
Union High School	2061/Cosmetology	BurMax Company – Cosmetology kits	\$7,200.00 (not to exceed)
Union High School	2053/Student Council	Pirylis/Amazon/Johnny Napkins/Party City/C&R Graphics – t-shirts, decorations snacks, etc. (powderpuff)	\$2,000.00 (not to exceed)
Union High School	2053/Student Council	Pirylis/Amazon/Johnny Napkins/Party City/C&R	\$2,000.00 (not to exceed)

		graphics – t-shirts, decorations, snacks etc. (March Madness)	
Union High School	2053/Student Council	Local Flower Shop – items and carnations for VDay Grams	\$2,000.00 (not to exceed)
Union High School	2053/Student Council/ Senior Class	Amazon/Pirylis – items for Fashion Show	\$1,000.00 (not to exceed)
Union High School	2053/Student Council	Party City/Oriental Trading/ Home Depot – items for Holiday Grams	\$1,000.00 (not to exceed)
Union High School	2053/Student Council	Amazon, Pirylis, Carr Event Productions – items for Harvest Dance	\$2,000.00 (not to exceed)
Union High School	2053/Student Council, Senior Class, Farmer Fam	Party City/Oriental Trading/ Amazon – items for Haunted Hallways	\$1,000.00 (not to exceed)

**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, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-11. APPROVE FUNDRAISERS**

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

Event Name	Date	Purpose
Snack/water/bake sale and Clothing sale	October 18, 2023- June 30, 2024	UHS/Volleyball – to raise funds for tournaments, summer league, senior night supplies, etc.
Snacks/water/bake sale and Clothing sale	October 18, 2023- June 30, 2024	UHS/Bowling – to raise funds for tournaments, senior night supplies, etc.
Dress Down Day	October 18, 2023- June 30, 2024 – date TBD	UHS/Softball – to raise funds for end of year events for softball team
Chipotle	October 20, 2023	UHS/Softball – to raise funds for end of year events for softball program
BSN Clothing Fundraiser	October 20, 2023- June 30, 2024	UHS/Softball – to raise funds for end of year events for softball program
Chocolate Sales	October 20, 2023- June 30, 2023	UHS/Softball – to raise funds for end of year events for softball program
Snack Sale and Bake Sale	October 18, 2023- June 18, 2024	UHS/Cheerleading – to raise funds for cheer camp, senior night, cheer gear, stunt clinic
Candy Sales	September 20- October 20, 2023	UHS/Field Hockey – to raise funds for field hockey team
Senior t-shirts and parent t-shirt sales	October 18, 2023- June 18, 2024	UHS/Senior Class – to raise funds for the senior class
Painting of Parking Spots	October 18, 2023- November 1, 2023	UHS/Senior Class – to raise funds for the senior class
Snack Sale	October 18, 2023- June 18, 2024	UHS/Senior Class – to raise funds for the Class of 2024
Haunted Hallways	October 28-30, 2023	UHS/Senior Class, Farmer Fam, Student Council – to raise funds for the Senior Class, Farmer Fam and Student Council

Harvest Dance	November 17, 2023	UHS/Student Council – to raise funds for Student Council and future events
Door Decorating Contest	December 22, 2023	UHS/Student Council – to raise funds for Student Council – winners pizza party
Holiday Grams	November 1-December 22, 2023	UHS/Student Council – to raise funds for Student Council and future events
Fashion Show	November 1-January 31, 2024 Date TBD	UHS/Student Council/Senior Class – to raise funds for Student Council/senior class and future events
Valentine’s Day Grams	January 1-February 14, 2024	UHS/Student Council – to raise funds for Student Council and future events
March Madness	February-March 2024 – Date TBD	UHS/Student Council – to raise funds for Student Council and future events
Powder Puff Football Game	March 2024-May 2024 – Date TBD	UHS/Student Council – to raise funds for Student Council and future events
Bake Sale	October 18, 2023-December 22, 2023 – TBD	UHS/Roots: Black Excellence Club – to raise funds for future events and awareness of club
Pretzel Sale	December 8, 2023	UHS/Roots: Black Excellence Club – to raise funds for future events and awareness of club
Bake Sale	November 2-3, 2023	UHS/National Honor Society – to raise funds for NHS graduation and induction materials
Pink Ribbon Sale	October 23-27, 2023	UHS/National Honor Society – to raise funds for donation to Susan B. Komen Foundation for breast cancer research
Pot of Gold Candy Gram	March 1-29, 2024	UHS/Dance Team – to raise funds for costumes, competition, UHS dance gear
Tye Dye Socks	October 19, 2023-December 1, 2023	UHS/Dance Team – to raise funds for transportation, competition, costumes, field trips
Double Good Popcorn	October 16-20, 2023	KMS/Esports Club – to raise funds for cover entrance fee for Garden State Esports
T-Shirt Sale	October 23, 2023-May 30, 2024	KMS/Esports Club – to raise funds for equipment, apparel, field trip
Bake Sale	November 15, 2023 and April 17, 2024	KMS/Esports Club – to raise funds for equipment, apparel and field trip
Apparel Sale	October 18, 2023-June 30, 2024	UHS/Prom – to raise money for the prom
Candy Gram	October 18, 2023-June 30, 2024	UHS/Prom – to raise funds for prom
Soda Machine	October 18, 2023-June 30, 2024	UHS/Prom – to raise funds for prom
Pie a Teacher	October 18, 2023-June 30, 2024 - TBD	UHS/Prom – to raise funds for prom
Snack Sale	October 18, 2023-June 30, 2024 – dates TBD	UHS/Prom – to raise funds for prom
Bake Sale	October 18, 2023-June 30, 2024 – dates TBD	UHS/Prom – to raise funds for prom
Dress Down Day	October 18, 2023-June 30, 2024 – dates TBD	UHS/Prom – to raise funds for prom

Lawn Signs	October 18, 2023- June 30, 2024	UHS/Prom – to raise funds for prom
Signs/Décor	October 22, 2023- June 16, 2024	UHS/Club TESSLO and Play Unified – to give students opportunities to participate in inclusive sports/activities
Spirit Wear	October 22, 2023- June 16, 2024	UHS/Club TESSLO and Play Unified – to give students opportunities to participate in inclusive sports/activities
PBSIS Rewards	October 30, 2023	Jefferson/PBSIS – to raise funds for PBSIS rewards
Dress Down	November 1, 2023- January 21, 2024 – Date TBD	UHSPAC – to raise funds for UHSPAC productions
Pledges Drive/Donation-online	November 1, 2023- June 1, 2024	UHSPAC – to raise funds for UHSPAC activities, productions and scholarships
Program Advertisement/Patron Packages	November 1, 2023- January 15, 2024	UHSPAC – to raise funds for fall production
Snack Sale	November 1, 2023- June 1, 2024	UHSPAC – to raise funds for UHSPAC productions
Candy Fundraiser	October 18, 2023- June 1, 2023	UHS/Cross Country – to raise funds for end of season rewards and activities
School Store	December 1, 2023- June 30, 2024	Washington/Student Council – to raise funds for charity-philanthropic causes
Light Up Hallways, Valentine Telegrams, Read-a-Thon, Walk-a-Thon, Flower Petal Pots, Bake Sale, Dress Like your Favorite Storybook Character	December 1, 2023- June 30, 2024 – dates TBD	Washington/Student Council – to raise funds for charity-philanthropic causes
Snack Sale	October 18, 2023- June 30, 2024	UHS/Junior Class – to raise funds for junior class and provide snacks to students
Class of 2025 Apparel	October 18, 2023- June 30, 2024	UHS/Junior Class – to raise funds for junior class for school gear
Valentine’s Day Flower and Candy Grams	October 18, 2023- February 12, 2024	UHS/Junior Class – to raise funds for junior class
Snack Sale	October 18, 2023- June 30, 2024	UHS/Freshmen Class – to raise funds for freshmen class

## F-12. ACCEPT DONATIONS

Accept the following donations:

From	For Use By	\$/Item
Bright Funds	Washington Elementary School	\$250.00
Shutterfly LLC	Washington Elementary School	\$979.12
Fairleigh Dickinson University Computer Science Hub funded by NJDOE	District Libraries	Two (2) Core Innovations 10.1” Quad-Core Tablet - KJM Model: CTB1016GBL – S/N: KJMCTB1016G2104023267; and S/N: KJMCTB1016G2104023209 Estimated value: \$100.00 each (\$200.00)  BBC Micro Bits: 12

		Estimated Value: \$30.00 each (\$360.00)
Semi High-Tech U – KLA Foundation	District Libraries	BBC Micro Bits: 10 Estimated Value: \$30.00 each (\$300.00)
Pathfinders Summer Institute – Infosys Foundation USA	District Libraries	BBC Micro Bits: 20 Estimated Valued: \$30.00 each (\$600.00)
John Edward Evan-Life Insurance Benefit	Union High School Scholarship Fund	\$5,000.00

**F-13. APPROVE SUBMISSION FOR ESEA 2022-2023 APPLICATION**

Approve submission of the final expenditure report for the ESEA 2022-2023 application in EWEG.

**F-14. APPROVE SUBMISSION OF ESSER II FINAL EXPENDITURE REPORT**

Approve submission of the ESSER II final expenditure report due in EWEG.

**F-15. APPROVE UPDATED SALARY ALLOCATION CHART – ESEA-ESSER FUNDS**

Approve updated salary allocation chart for staff to be paid using ESEA and/or ESSER funds for the 2023-2024 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-16. APPROVE UPDATED AFFILIATION AGREEMENT – KEAN UNIVERSITY**

Approve updated Affiliation Agreement with Kean University to reflect both the Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 semesters within the School Based Mental Health Grant, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-17. APPROVE TO AMEND ARP ESSER GRANT APPLICATION**

Approve to amend the ARP ESSER grant application for the 2023-2024 school year.

**F-18. APPROVE GO GUARDIAN BEACON – LICENSE COVERAGE**

Approve Go Guardian Beacon 24/7 license coverage for a total of \$19,177.00 for the period of October 1, 2023 through August 31, 2024 to help identify when a student is at risk for self-harm or suicide (Account ARFP ESSER #19953), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-19. APPROVE ACCEPTANCE OF NEW JERSEY CHILD ASSAULT PREVENTION GRANT**

Approve acceptance of the New Jersey Child Assault Prevention 2023-2024 Grant – Elementary, Teen and Special Needs (CAP), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-20. APPROVE ACCEPTANCE OF GRANTS FROM SPECIAL OLYMPICS NJ – UNIFIED CHAMPION SCHOOLS**

Approve acceptance of the grants awarded to the following schools from the Special Olympics New Jersey – Unified Champion School for 2023-2024, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-21. APPROVE COGENT LEASING & FINANCING, INC. – LEASE PURCHASE LOAN**

Approve the lease purchase loan from Cogent Leasing & Financing, Inc., in the amount of \$277,912.95 (estimate) for equipment lease of three (3) vans (over a 4-year period) to replace retired and vans that are now out of compliance, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-22A. APPROVE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE BUDGET AMOUNT WORKSHEET (M-1)**

Approve Annual Maintenance Budget Amount Worksheet (M-1) pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:26A, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-22B. APPROVE COMPREHENSIVE MAINTENANCE PLAN REPORT**

Approve Comprehensive Maintenance Plan Report (FY23, budgeted FY24 and Planned FY25), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-23. APPROVE REACH HEALTH SERVICES – CLINICAL COUNSELING SERVICES AND ASSESSMENTS**

Approve Reach Health Services to provide clinical counseling services and the wrap around program - \$41,500.00 [Account #11-000-216-320-01-19] and provide student mental health risk assessment at the rate of \$225.00 (not to exceed \$10,000.00) [Account #11-000-219-320-01-19] for the 2023-2024 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-24. APPROVE SCOPE OF WORK WITH DR. EDWARD FERGUS**

Approve Building Equity Action: Improving Tired Support System of I&RS 2023-24 Scope of Work, at a cost of \$65,000.00 [Accounts: Title II 20-270-200-300-01-20/8434 and CIA Budget 11-000-223-320-01-54PK12/18231], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

*F-25. 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.

**DISCUSSION:**

None

**AYE:** Mrs. Brens-Watson, Ms. Carbonell, Mr. O’Shea, Mrs. Regis-Darby,  
Mrs. Scott-Hayden, Mrs. Williams, Ms. McKenzie

**NAY:** Mrs. Regis-Darby (F-23)

**ABSTAIN:** None

**MOTION CARRIED**

Operations Committee Resolutions:

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following resolutions were moved by Mr. O’Shea, seconded by Mrs. Scott-Hayden, for approval:

**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. APPROVE SUBMISSION OF ANTICIPATED FACILITY REQUESTS**

Approve submission of the Anticipated Facility Requests for Application for Change of Use for a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classroom, Room 115 at Washington Elementary School, for the 2023-2024 school year, to the New Jersey Department of Education (Union County office), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**O-3. APPROVE ANNUAL INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT NOTICE**

Approve Annual Integrated Pest Management Notice for the 2023-2024 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**O-4. APPROVE SALE OF SCHOOL VEHICLES**

Approve the sale of the following school vehicles by Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes:

Vehicle #	Capacity	Year	VIN #	Make
56	54	2008	1BABGCKA18F253956	Blue Bird
57	54	2008	1BABGCKA38F253957	Blue Bird
58	54	2008	1BABGCKA58F253958	Blue Bird
68	54	2006	1BABGCKA26F231140	Blue Bird
75	54	2006	1BABGCKA66F231139	Blue Bird
Band	6	2000	1T88P3B12Y1077012*	Thomas

\*if not sold, this vehicle will be scrapped.

**DISCUSSION:**

None

**AYE:** Mrs. Brens-Watson, Ms. Carbonell, Mr. O’Shea, Mrs. Regis-Darby, Mrs. Scott-Hayden, Mrs. Williams, Ms. McKenzie

**NAY:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**MOTION CARRIED**

Personnel Committee Resolutions:

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following resolutions were moved by Mrs. Scott-Hayden, seconded by Mr. O’Shea, for approval:

**P-1A.** *Approved at October 10, 2023 worksession (personnel-new hires)*

P-1B *Approved at October 10, 2023 worksession (personnel-extra pay)*

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

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

**P-1B-1. PERSONNEL ACTIONS – EXTRA PAY**

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

**P-1C PERSONNEL ACTIONS – TRANSFERS**

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

P-2. *Approved at October 10, 2023 worksession (substitute list)*

**P-2A. APPROVE SUBSTITUTE LISTS**

Approve Substitute Lists for the 2023-2024 school year.

Name	Position	Rate
Christopher Kaminski	Sub-bus driver	\$22.00/hr.

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

Accept letters of resignation/retirement from the following staff:

Name	Position	Location	Eff. Date	Reason	Notes
Pearlene Johnson-Spikes	P/T bus aide	Transport. Dept.	9/11/2023	Resignation	
Joao Bernardes	English language arts teacher	BMS	1/1/2024	Retirement	
Felix Santiago	Lead custodian -2 <sup>nd</sup> shift	BMS	10/1/2023	Resignation	
Megan Bohse	School counselor	UHS	10/1/2023	Resignation	

**P-4. APPROVE LEAVES**

Approve leaves for the following staff:

Name	Position	Location	Leave Dates	Leave Type
Tatiana Arrieta	Visual arts teacher	UHS	12/1/2023-5/13/2024	Paid child rearing leave followed by unpaid FMLA/NJFLA (concurrently)
Luigi Cerciello	Custodian	Livingston	8/1/2023-6/30/2024	Updated: unpaid intermittent FMLA/NJFLA
Nicole McGuire	3 <sup>rd</sup> grade teacher	Battle Hill	9/1/2023-6/22/2024	Paid intermittent FMLA followed by unpaid FMLA

Teresa Clarke	Special ed teacher	Hannah Caldwell	9/5/2023-3/4/2024	Paid FMLA
Frances Siino	4 <sup>th</sup> grade teacher	Battle Hill	9/13/2023-6/24/2024	Paid intermittent FMLA followed by unpaid FMLA
Corinne Singer	Science teacher	KMS	Revised 10/23/2023-9/1/2024	Paid child rearing leave followed by unpaid FMLA/NJFLA (concurrently)
Katie Snyder	Business ed. Teacher	UHS	9/7/2023-6/24/2024	Paid intermittent FMLA followed by unpaid FMLA
Donna Cassidy	4 <sup>th</sup> grade teacher	Livingston	10/4/2023-10/10/2023	Paid medical leave
Noa Denning	Speech specialist teacher	Hannah Caldwell	2/23/2024-6/10/2024	Paid child rearing leave followed by unpaid FMLA/NJFLA (concurrently)
Debra Mills	Special ed. Teacher	Washington	1/2/2024-6/18/2024	Paid child rearing leave followed by unpaid FMLA/NJFLA (concurrently)
Lisa Frickson	Special ed teacher	Battle Hill	11/24/2023-12/14/2024	Paid intermittent FMLA followed by unpaid FMLA/NJFLA
Rose Volturo	Math teacher	KMS	9/14/2023-11/1/2023	Paid sick leave followed by unpaid leave
Marcel Royal	Behaviorist	Franklin	9/7/2023-6/30/2024	Paid intermittent FMLA followed by unpaid FMLA/NJFLA
Elizabeth Watanabe	Special ed teacher	Battle Hill	11/13/2023-3/27/2024	FMLA/NJFLA leave
John Kraly	4 <sup>th</sup> grade teacher	Washington	9/21/2023-6/30/2024	Paid intermittent FMLA followed by unpaid FMLA/NJFLA
John Sadler	Special ed teacher	UHS	9/29/2023-10/31/2023	Paid medical leave
Dana Connolly	2 <sup>nd</sup> grade teacher	Hannah Caldwell	1/2/2024-6/30/2024	Paid child rearing leave followed by unpaid FMLA/NJFLA (concurrently)
Geraldine Muller	Secretary	UHS	10/2/2023-11/13/2023	Paid medical leave
Ilsia Alfaro	Custodian	KMS	10/9/2023-1/30/2024	Paid child rearing leave followed by unpaid FMLA/NJFLA (concurrently)
Russell Menoni	PE Teacher	Washington	10/2/2023-11/17/2023	Paid medical leave
Veronica Ambrose	3 <sup>rd</sup> grade teacher	Battle Hill	10/4/2023-10/23/2023	FMLA sick leave followed by unpaid FMLA leave

**P-5. APPROVE STUDENT TEACHERS AND INTERNSHIPS**

Approve student teachers and internships for the 2023-2024 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**P-6. APPROVE I&RS MEMBERS – 2023-2024**

Approve I&RS members for the 2023-2024 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**P-7. APPROVE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PANELS – 2023-2024**

Approve School Improvement Panels (ScIPs) for the 2023-2024 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**P-8. APPROVE CRISIS RESPONSE TEAM – 2023-2024**

Approve Crisis Response Teams for the 2023-2024 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**P-9. APPROVE DISTRICT COMMUNICATION LIAISON – SPEKHARDT**

Approve William Spekhardt as the communication liaison to local law enforcement agencies for the 2023-2024 school year, at no cost to the district.

**P-10. APPROVE CHANGE OF SALARY CLASS (#3) – EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 2023**

Approve Change of Salary Class (#3) (effective September 2023), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**DISCUSSION:**

None

**AYE:** Mrs. Brens-Watson, Ms. Carbonell, Mr. O’Shea, Mrs. Regis-Darby,  
Mrs. Scott-Hayden, Mrs. Williams, Ms. McKenzie

**NAY:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Policy Committee:**

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

**POL-1. APPROVE POLICY 1642.01 – SICK LEAVE (NEW)**

Approve Policy 1642.01 – Sick Leave, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**POL-2. APPROVE REGULATION 1642.01 – SICK LEAVE (NEW)**

Approve Regulation 1642.01 – Sick Leave, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**POL-3. APPROVE POLICY 2419 – SCHOOL THREAT ASSESSMENT TEAMS (M) (NEW)**

Approve Policy 2419 – School Threat Assessment Teams, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**POL-4. APPROVE REGULATION 2419 – SCHOOL THREAT ASSESSMENT TEAMS (M) (NEW)**

Approve Regulation 2419 – School Threat Assessment Teams, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**POL-5. APPROVE POLICY 0164 – CONDUCT OF BOARD MEETING**

Approve Policy 0164 – Conduct of Board Meeting, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**POL-6. APPROVE REGULATION 2624 – GRADING SYSTEM**

Approve Regulation 2624 – Grading System, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**DISCUSSION:**

None

**AYE:** Mrs. Brens-Watson, Ms. Carbonell, Mr. O’Shea, Mrs. Regis-Darby,  
Mrs. Scott-Hayden, Mrs. Williams, Ms. McKenzie

**NAY:** Mrs. Regis-Darby (POL-6)

**ABSTAIN:** Mrs. Regis-Darby (POL-5)

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Approval of Bills:**

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

**DISCUSSION:**

None

**AYE:** Mrs. Brens-Watson, Ms. Carbonell, Mr. O’Shea, Mrs. Regis-Darby,  
Mrs. Scott-Hayden, Mrs. Williams, Ms. McKenzie

**NAY:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Unfinished Business:**

Mrs. Regis-Darby stated the G&T regulation is subjective and the language is not clear. If we don’t understand it how can anyone else understand it. She suggests that the Board look at it again.

Mrs. Brens-Watson stated she introduced reinstating Zoom to allow the community to participate. Thank you to the Board for engaging in conversation. The Board is looking for ways for the community to participate.

**New Business:**

Ms. Carbonell stated thank you to the Frazier family for putting together the Hispanic Heritage event on Friday. Assistant Superintendent Perez was honored.

Veterans Day is coming up and she is glad the district invests in the ROTC.

Mrs. Williams stated Board members Chastity Santana, Dixiana Carbonell and Yocasta-Brens Watson were also honored at the Hispanic Heritage event for their accomplishments and commitment. It was a great evening.

Mrs. Brens-Watson stated thank you to H.O.P.E. for honoring us and letting us tell our stories. She learned that evening about Dr. Perez, who is fluent in English, Spanish, French and Latin. Congratulations to our Board members and Dr. Perez.

Ms. McKenzie stated we are in our superintendent search and the survey closes tonight at midnight; your input is welcomed.

#### Comments from the Public:

David Arminio stated the boy's soccer game is Sunday in Clark. The Rotary Club is collecting socks for Socktober and will be distributing them to a location in Elizabeth. Four Centuries is this weekend at Caldwell House. Union Got Talent is November 19, 2023 at Kean University.

Barbara Lamort stated thank you to the Board for letting the community have input on the superintendent's search. The previous searches resulted in outside people. Job performance is important and someone who has integrity – we have that person here.

Darren Martin thanked Yocasta and Nellis for trying to bring back Zoom; everyone should vote yes. He stated that the district's schools are overcrowded, and Town is over developed. Black administrators, who have been forced out, you will have to speak to the Black community; union needs to fight for this.

Sol Valentina requested that the Board consider bringing back Zoom to the meetings because with more access, there will be more involvement. She told the Board that she started a petition to bring back Zoom. She hopes the Board will give the community the option. She also stated that school are very overcrowded and asked what the capacity of each school is. She stated that she is worried about security.

Paul Casey stated thank you for reconsidering Zoom. He asked that the community come and watch the soccer game on Sunday.

Natercia Lopes stated she can't understand why we can't do Zoom again. It would benefit parents that can't attend meetings.

Dr. Albert Smith stated regarding the superintendent search, there is a person serving the district now who works hard, is a servant leader, will work with everyone and is hands on.

Ann Margaret Shannon stated the UTEA was a Gold Sponsor for the Mayor's 5K race, sponsors the girls basketball league and they just added 5<sup>th</sup> graders; and sponsors and works with the Caldwell Parsonage.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the Board in public session it was moved by Mrs. Regis-Darby, seconded by Mrs. Scott-Hayden, that the meeting be adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

AYE: Mrs. Brens-Watson, Ms. Carbonell, Mr. O'Shea, Mrs. Regis-Darby,  
Mrs. Scott-Hayden, Mrs. Williams, Ms. McKenzie

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

*Yolanda Koon*

YOLANDA KOON  
BOARD SECRETARY

