



**Superintendent's Report State of
the Schools
September 17, 2024**

9/4/24 – Staff Focus Groups

Staff in the district were asked three questions. Here's some of the feedback/suggestions they provided.

How can we foster a sense of belonging and community to increase engagement and investment?

- addressing language barriers
- creating more open communication with families
 - making physical buildings more welcoming
 - create incentive programs
- creating more family and community involvement opportunities
- providing social opportunities for staff to build community

9/4/24 – Staff Focus Groups

What systematic changes can be made to improve student academic performance?

- increase interdisciplinary teaching
- ensure curriculum is relevant and reflects life skills and real-world concerns, especially CTE programs
- making physical buildings more welcoming
- provide more opportunities for collaboration
- expand mental health and counseling opportunities
 - strengthen RTI and I&RS programs
 - create parent education programs
 - invest in upgrading facilities
 - providing a positive school culture
- reallocate funding for staff and academic programs

9/4/24 – Staff Focus Groups

What contributes to absenteeism?

- family responsibilities and perception on the importance of education
 - parents are unaware of the chronic absences
- there is a lack of engagement, bullying, mental health challenges
 - lack of consequences for chronic absenteeism
- frequent teacher absenteeism may contribute to student absenteeism

How can we positively impact attendance?

- regularly check in with families, even when absences are excused
 - help families overcome attendance barriers
- increase extracurriculars and incentives/positive reinforcement
 - structured consequences
- make connections with non-English-speaking families

Celebrations Across the District - September

Hispanic Heritage Month (9/15-10/15)

German Heritage Month

- announcements made in buildings highlighting people of Hispanic and German descent who have made an impact, including the German and Spanish Honor Societies
- opportunities for students to listen to Hispanic music and wear cultural attire
 - instructional lessons on Hispanic figures in society
- inclusion of read alouds that feature Hispanic authors and characters
- studies and projects of Salvador Dali, Pablo Picasso, Frida Kahlo
 - decorated hallways, offices, entryways

A Small Glimpse

First Day of School Students & Staff



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A Small Glimpse

9/11 Program BHES



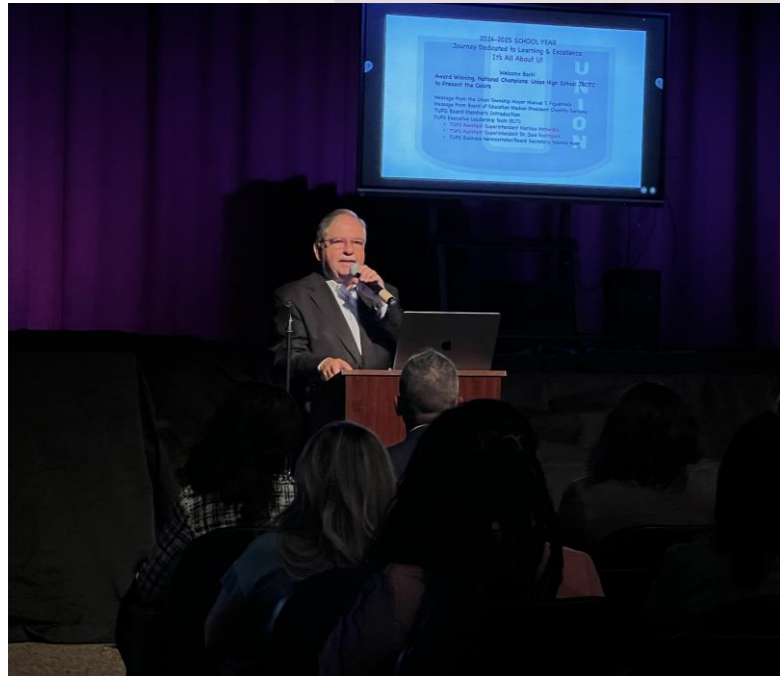
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Battle Hill School Students Gain Insight from 9/11 Witness's First-Hand Account

<https://www.tapinto.net/towns/union/sections/education/articles/battle-hill-school-students-gain-insight-from-9-11-witness-s-first-hand-account>

A Small Glimpse

Opening of School Convocation



Manuel Figueiredo



Petal Robertson,
Secretary-treasurer of
the New Jersey
Education Association.

TUPS culture will drive our
great results; Culture will drive
everything!



Yolanda Koon



Dr. Gerry Benaquista



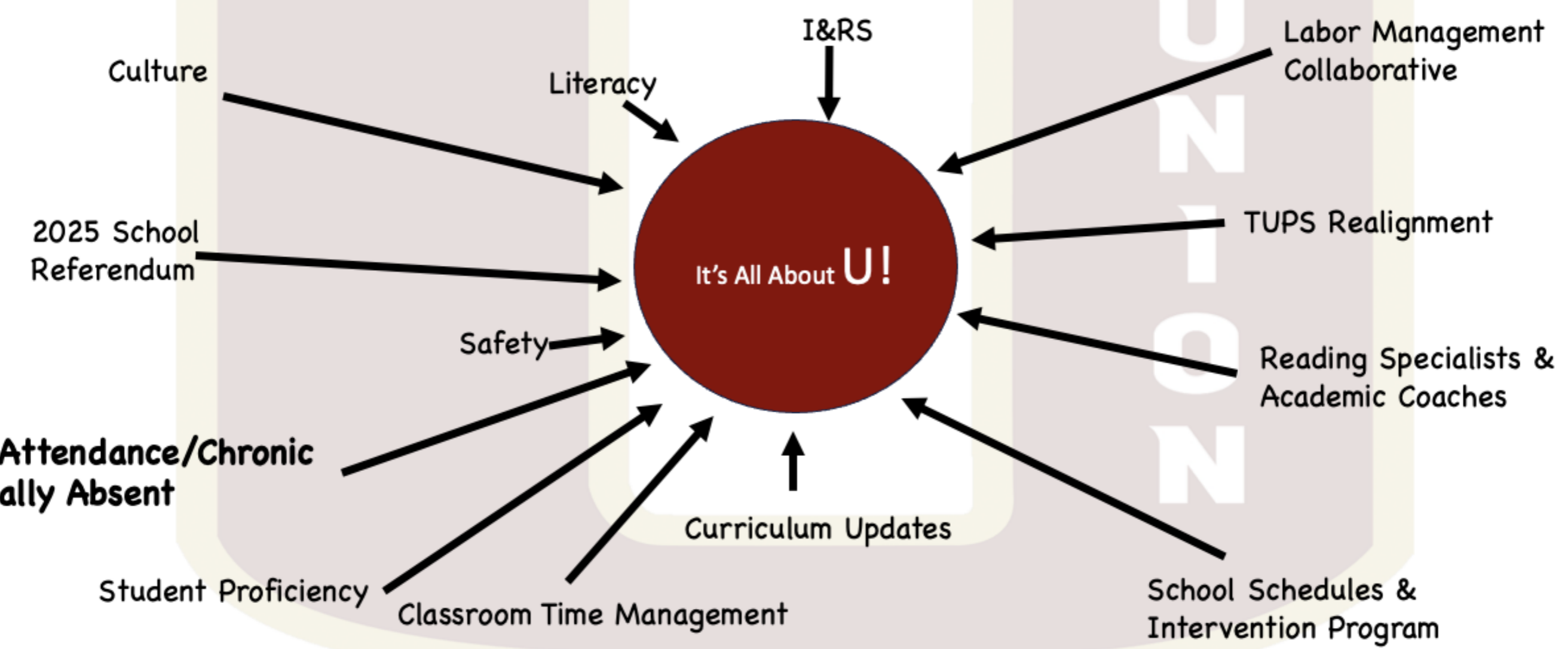
Madam President Chastity Santana

A Small Glimpse

2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

Journey Dedicated to Learning & Excellence

ONWARD...CHASING EXCELLENCE



"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." – Helen Keller

A Small Glimpse

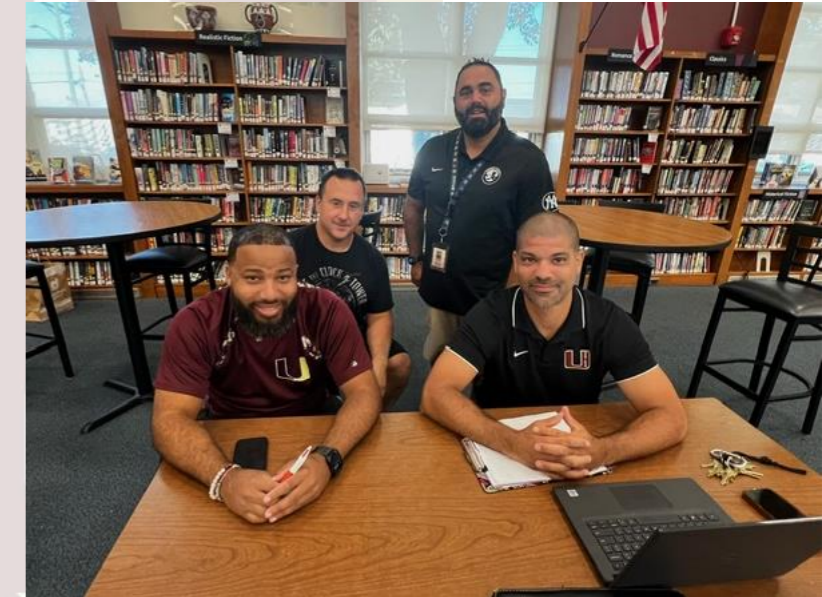
New Teacher Orientation



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Staff Professional Development



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Re-registration Update

PreK 4 Entering Kindergarten (374 Students)

332 Re-registered

32 Students did not register

10 Students transferred out of TUPS

131 new students to the TUPS

Aid-in-Lieu (Transportation Reimbursement)

480 Students Notified

225 Re-registered verified

255 Did not re-register (Payment will be withheld until re-registration is completed)

Out-of-District Students

176 Students Notified

17 Re-registrations verified

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Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) September 11, 2024 – September 17, 2024

No HIB Incidents to Report

	Founded	Unfounded	Inconclusive
September 11, 2024, to September 17, 2024	0	0	0

Reminder: Special General Election – September 18, 2024

Thank You, TUPS Community!

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