

TOWNSHIP OF UNION BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – August 15, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.

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, August 15, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Administration Building, 2369 Morris Avenue, Union, New Jersey pursuant to notice sent to each member.

Ms. McKenzie called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m.

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Yocasta Brens-Watson, Ms. Dixiana Carbonell, Ms. Marissa McKenzie, Mrs. Nancy Minneci, Mrs. Kimberly Scott-Hayden, Mrs. Mary Lynn Williams

ABSENT AT ROLL CALL:

Mr. John O’Shea (arrived 6:12 p.m.), Mrs. Nellis Regis-Darby, Ms. Chastity Santana (arrived 6:40 p.m.)

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 6:13 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 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: Mrs. Brens-Watson, Ms. Carbonell, Mrs. Minneci, Mr. O’Shea,
Mrs. Scott-Hayden, Mrs. Williams, Ms. McKenzie

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

The Board returned to public session at 8:02 p.m.

Comments from Public on Resolutions:

Ann Margaret Shannon asked about agenda item F-28. Dr. Perez stated it is for instruction for administration and staff during the full and half-day professional development days.

Approval of Minutes:

Moved by Ms. Carbonell, seconded by Ms. Santana, that the following minutes be adopted:

1. June 13, 2023 – worksession
2. June 13, 2023 – executive session #1
3. June 13, 2023 – executive session #2
4. June 27, 2023 – regular meeting
5. June 27, 2023 – executive session #1
6. June 27, 2023 – executive session #2

DISCUSSION:

None

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Communications:

LETTER OF RESIGNATION – LEMOS

Letter of resignation from Sandra Lemos, bus driver-Transportation Department, effective July 29, 2023.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION – ROBERTS

Letter of resignation from Monika Roberts, school counselor-Union High School, effective September 1, 2023.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION – ZAKRY

Letter of resignation from Amany Zakry, paraprofessional-Hannah Caldwell Elementary School, effective August 2, 2023.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION – STYPULKOWSKI

Letter of resignation from Eliza Stypulkowski, ESL teacher-Union High School, effective July 31, 2023.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION – RAMOS

Letter of resignation from Judite Ramos, bus-aide-Transportation Department, effective July 29, 2023.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION – ZARRO

Letter of resignation from Gary Zarro, bus driver-Transportation Department, effective August 2, 2023.

REQUEST FOR INTERMITTENT LEAVE – CERCIELLO

Request for paid intermittent FMLA/NJFLA leave from Luigi Cerciello, custodian-Livingston Elementary school, August 1, 2023-June 30, 2024.

REQUEST FOR INTERMITTENT LEAVE – VINCENT

Request for paid intermittent FMLA/NJFLA leave from Jaclyn Vincent, teacher-special education-Connecticut Farms Elementary School, September 1, 2023-June 30, 2024.

Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Benaquista presented the HIB Report for period 2; January-June 2023 (2022-2023) and the Student Safety Data System Report (SSDS) for period 2 (2022-2023). See agenda items E-3 and E-4 attachments for the reports. A summary is below:

- HIB Report – Period 2: Founded 45; Unfounded 58
- SSDS Report – Period 2: Violence 71; Vandalism 8; Substances 177; Weapons 10

Education/Student Discipline Committee Resolutions:

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

E-1. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT OF HIB

Superintendent's Report of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) for the period July 19, 2023 to August 15, 2023 (no incidents to report) (*no vote required; for reporting purposes only*).

E-2. APPROVE HOME SCHOOLED STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN ATHLETIC PROGRAM

Approve E.H. and M.H., high school students who are home schooled, to participate in the high school sports program for the 2023-2024 school year.

E-3. APPROVE HIB – BI-ANNUAL REPORT

Approve Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) Bi-Annual Report for period 2, January-June 2023, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

E-4. APPROVE STUDENT SAFETY DATA SYSTEM REPORT

Approve the Student Safety Data System Report (formerly Violence and Vandalism Report) (SSDS) for period one (January 1-June 30, 2023) of the 2022-2023 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

E-5. APPROVE MEDICAL SERVICES HANDBOOK AND SCHOOL HEALTH STANDING ORDERS

Approve Medical Services Handbook and School Health Standing Orders for the 2023-2024 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

DISCUSSION:

None

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Fiscal and Planning Committee Resolutions:

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

F-1A. TREASURER'S REPORT

That the preliminary Treasurer's Report dated June 30, 2023 be accepted.

F-1B. TREASURER'S REPORT

That the Treasurer's Report dated July 31, 2023 be accepted.

F-2A. SECRETARY'S REPORT

That the preliminary Secretary's Report dated June 30, 2023 be accepted.

F-2A-1. APPROVE INCREASE TO FY23 BUDGET 2022-2023 GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS - \$1,900,000.00

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A 13.3 section (d) appropriate surplus generated from State extraordinary aid excluded from the excess surplus calculation in the prebudget year in the amount of \$1,900,000, the unbudgeted appropriations shall be used as follows: (a) Account # 11-000-270-518-01-19-0060 \ 7553 Contract Svc- Special Education retroactive for June 2023.

F-2B. SECRETARY'S REPORT

That the Secretary's Report dated July 31, 2023 be accepted.

F-3A. CERTIFY TREASURER'S AND SECRETARY'S REPORT

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(a), I certify that as of June 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 June 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-3B. CERTIFY TREASURER'S AND SECRETARY'S REPORT

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(a), I certify that as of July 31, 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 July 31, 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 AGREEMENT WITH BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF UNION COUNTY

Approve agreement with the Boys & Girls Club of Union County for the 2023-2024 winter swim season (\$15,000.00), 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
Kawameeh Middle School	5/Administrative	Township of Union Board of Education – Chromebook fines (2022-2023)	\$3,241.50

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
Gatorade Fundraiser	September 1, 2023- June 30, 2024	UHS/Athletic Training Club – to raise funds for supplies, student scholarships and end of year events
Rita's Italian Ice Sale	August 11, 2023- June 2024	UHS/Cheerleading – to raise funds for stunt clinic, senior night cheer gear, cheer camp, end of year celebration
Spiritwear	September 16-30, 2023	Franklin Elementary School – to raise funds for school account 2197

F-12. ACCEPT DONATIONS

Accept the following donations:

From	For Use By	\$/Item
Anonymous Donor	District Schools	360 Lego miniature playsets (approximate value \$2,880.00)
Made Stars Performing Arts School	UHSPAC – for future productions and scholarships	\$2,500.00
Elissa Malespina (UHS librarian/media specialist) [raffle winner at ISTE Conference]	UHS Library	VariQuest Perfecta 2400STP full-color poster system, ink, paper, software (total value: \$6,653.98)

F-13. APPROVE SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH FIRM – HAZARD YOUNG ATTEA AND ASSOCIATES

Approve Hazard Young Attea and Associates (HYA) as search firm for Superintendent search, in an amount not to exceed \$21,900.00.

F-14. APPROVE TRAVEL AND RELATED EXPENSES – NJSBA WORKSHOP - 2023

Approve travel and related expenses pursuant to the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:11-12, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.8, 5.9 for the NJSBA Workshop Convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey (October 23-26, 2023) for Board members and Central Office Administration.

Registered Board Members/Central Office Administration:

1. Scott Taylor, Superintendent
2. Gerry Benaquista, Assistant Superintendent
3. Gretel Perez, Assistant Superintendent
4. Yolanda Koon, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
5. Sandra Paul, Director of IT
6. Marissa McKenzie, Board President
7. Chastity Santana, Board Vice President
8. Yocasta Brens-Watson
9. Dixiana Carbonell
10. Nancy Minneci
11. John O'Shea
12. Nellis Regis-Darby
13. Chastity Santana
14. Kimberly Scott-Hayden
15. Mary Lynn Williams

F-15. APPROVE RODRIGUEZ NATIVO LLC – SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER

Approve Rodriguez Nativo LLC to provide sign language interpreting for parent conferences and school activities at a flat rate of \$200.00 for a two-hour minimum (thereafter \$75/hr. day rate and \$80/hr. after 5 p.m./night rate) per interpreter (30 minute increments billed after 2-hour minimum) not to exceed \$3,500.00 for the 2023-2024 school year [Account #11-000-240-8900-01-54-060], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-16. APPROVE SPECIAL EDUCATION TUITION CONTRACT – UCESC

Approve Special Education Tuition Contract with the Union County Educational Services Commission (UCESC) for the 2023-2024 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-17. APPROVE SALARIES PAID THROUGH ESEA GRANT

Approve 2023-2024 salaries paid for through the ESEA Grant, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-18. ACCEPT NONPUBLIC SCHOOL NURSING AID FROM NJDOE

Accept Nonpublic School Nursing Aid from the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) for the 2023-2024 school year as follows: (a) The Patrick School Inc. - \$14,400.00, (b)

St. Michael's School - \$39,600.00 and (c) United Academy of Union - \$13,560.00 [for a total of \$67,560.00], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-19. ACCEPT NONPUBLIC SECURITY AID FROM NJDOE

Accept Nonpublic Security Aid from the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) for the 2023-2024 school year as follows: (a) The Patrick School Inc. - \$24,600.00, (b) St. Michael's School - \$67,650.00 and (c) United Academy of Union - \$23,165.00 [for a total of \$115,415.00], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-20. ACCEPT NONPUBLIC TECHNOLOGY AID FROM NJDOE

Accept Nonpublic Technology Aid from the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) for the 2023-2024 school year as follows: (a) The Patrick School Inc. - \$5,096.00, (b) St. Michael's School - \$16,170.00 and (c) United Academy of Union - \$5,537.00 [for a total of \$26,803.00], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-21. ACCEPT NONPUBLIC TEXTBOOK AID FROM NJDOE

Accept Nonpublic Textbook Aid from the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) for the 2023-2024 school year as follows: (a) The Patrick School Inc. - \$6,012.00, (b) St. Michael's School - \$19,077.00 and (c) United Academy of Union - \$6,533.00 [for a total of \$31,622.00], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-22. APPROVE REVISED AGREEMENT WITH EFFECTIVE SCHOOL SOLUTIONS – THERAPEUTIC MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Approve revised Agreement with Effective School Solutions, LLC (ESS) to provide therapeutic mental health services through licensed professionals to students in our district for the 2023-2024 school year (\$642,650.00) [Account #11-000-216-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-23. APPROVE SUCCESSFUL INNOVATIONS – FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Approve Successful Innovations Inc. to provide an online platform of Family Engagement on Demand for all Title I Schools (Union High School, Burnet Middle School, Franklin and Jefferson Elementary Schools) at a cost of \$9,915.00 (using Title 1 2023-2024 funds), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-24. APPROVE ACCEPTANCE OF RACKSPACE TECHNOLOGY GRANT

Approve acceptance of a \$25,000 grant from Rackspace Technology to purchase STEM related instructional supplies for the 2023-2024 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-25. APPROVE SONDAY SYSTEM/WINSOR LEARNING – PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Approve Sonday System/Winsor Learning for professional development training for Franklin Elementary School staff for the 2023-2024 school year, at a cost of \$3,800.00 (paid for using Title ISIA Account #20-232-200-300-01-20-0004 and Title II Account #20-270-200-300-01-30).

F-26. APPROVE THE URBAN ASSEMBLY – SEL WORKSHOP

Approve The Urban Assembly to conduct an SEL Workshop: Adult SEL Building SEL Skills for Effective Interaction during the September 5, 2023 professional development day, at a cost of \$2,000.00 (paid for using School Based Mental Health Grant Account #20-453-200-500-01-20/20092).

F-27. APPROVE SCHOOL WELL-BEING SOLUTIONS – SEL WORKSHOP

Approve School Well-Being Solutions to conduct an SEL Workshop during the September 5, 2023 professional development day, at a cost of \$2,300.00 (paid for using School Based Mental Health Grant Account #20-453-200-500-01-20/20092).

F-28. APPROVE SCHOOL WELL-BEING SOLUTIONS – PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Approve School Well-Being Solutions to coordinate a Leadership Resilience and Team Dynamis & Empowered Professional Development Series from September 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, at a cost of \$61,500.00 (paid for using School Based Mental Health Grant Account #20-453-200-500-01-20/20092).

F-29. APPROVE NJPSA FEA – THREE WORKSHOPS

Approve NJPSA FEA to coordinate three (3) workshops for staff during the September 5, 2023 professional development day, at a cost of \$6,400.00 (paid for using Title II Account #20-270-200-300-01-30 and Title III Account #20-241-200-300-01-20), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-30. APPROVE MAKING THE TRANSITION – VIRTUAL INTERVENTION PROGRAM

Approve Making the Transition to coordinate virtual intervention programming with Union High School students, at a cost of \$3,000.00 (paid for using Title IV Account #20-281-100-300-01-20), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-31. APPROVE DENNIS MOROLDA, BUILDING MEN LLC – MENTORING PROGRAM/PARENT EVENTS

Approve Dennis Morolda, Building Men LLC, to coordinate a full year mentoring program and parent events for the 2023-2024 school year at Union High School, at a cost of \$9,600.00 (paid for using Title IV funds), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-32. APPROVE RUTGERS UNIVERSITY – SEL LAB TRAINING

Approve Rutgers University to coordinate SEL Lab training for staff at Washington and Franklin Elementary Schools throughout the 2023-2024 school year, at a cost of \$6,000.00 (paid for using ARP ESSER Mental Health Grant Account #20-453-200-300-03-20/8655).

F-33. APPROVE APPLICATION FOR NJCAP GRANT – ELEMENTARY, TEEN AND SPECIAL NEEDS

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

F-34. APPROVE KID CLAN – EVALUATIONS

Approve Kid Clan for the following services for the 2023-2024 school year (not to exceed \$25,000.00): (a) occupational therapy evaluation-\$370.00, (b) physical therapy evaluation-\$370.00; (c) monolingual speech-\$350.00; (d) monolingual social-\$360.00; (e) monolingual education-\$400.00; (f) monolingual psychological-\$400.00; (g) bilingual speech-\$450.00; (h) bilingual social-\$400.00; (i) bilingual educational-\$475.00; (j) bilingual psychological-\$475.00 [Account #11-000-219-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-35. APPROVE GRANT APPLICATION FOR NJCAP – K-8 BULLYING PREVENTION PROGRAM

Approve grant application for the New Jersey Child Assault Prevention (NJCAP) 2023-2024 Grant - K-8 Bullying Prevention Program at Kawameeh Middle School, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-36. APPROVE DR. L. HANES & ASSOCIATES – HOME INSTRUCTION

Approve teachers employed through Dr. L. Hanes & Associates to provide home instruction for district students on an “as needed” basis for the 2023-2024 school year (not to exceed \$15,000) [Account #7693-11-150-100-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-37. APPROVE SCHOOL-BASED APPLICATIONS – SPECIAL OLYMPICS UNIFIED CHAMPION SCHOOLS GRANTS

Approve the school-based applications to the Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools 2023-2024 Grant, for the following school: (a) Union High School - \$5,890.00, (b) Burnet Middle School - \$4,150.00, (c) Kawameeh Middle School - \$1,800.00; in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-38. APPROVE SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER SERVICE AGREEMENT AMENDMENT

Approve Amendment to the School Resource Officer Service Agreement between the Township of Union and the district for the 2023-2024 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-39. APPROVE SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT – SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, CLASS THREE

Approve Shared Services Agreement – Special Law Enforcement Officers, Class Three between the Township of Union and the district for the 2023-2024 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-40. APPROVE HAMILTON BUILDING – CST EVALUATIONS AND HOME INSTRUCTION

Approve Hamilton Building for the 2023-2024 school year as the location for (a) CST evaluations and (b) home instruction for student #248014 between 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. (Monday-Friday).

F-41. APPROVE COORDINATION OF GRADUATE LEVEL SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY EXTERNS FROM KEAN UNIVERSITY

Approve coordination of graduate level school psychology externs from Kean University, as part of the requirement of the School Based Mental Health Grant Award, for the 2023-2024 school year. Salaries to be paid using School Based Mental Health Grant Award and approved by the NJDOE [externs to be located at Union High School, Burnet Middle School and Kawameeh Middle School (September 1, 2023-December 31, 2023)] as follows:

	Name*	SBMH Grant Account
Kean University Intern Advisor	Dr. Aaron A. Gubi	Ext. 8640 (not to exceed \$15,000.00)
Kean University School Psychology Externship	Samantha Richardson Daisy Adorno Lauren Miliscil	Ext. 8638 (not to exceed \$17,213.00)

*Pending district fingerprinting and background check prior to start date.

F-42. *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:

Ms. Santana asked how many students are being serviced by ESS (F-22)? Dr. Benaquista stated this contract has the same services as last year, plus mental health services for general ed students. Ms. Santana stated moving forward work on bringing our students back.

Ms. Carbonell questioned F-23, F-26, F-27, F-30, F-33 – all consultants. Ms. Isabella Scocozza stated F-23 is for Title I and it is a mandatory parent engagement which is open to all families. The other consultants will be part of the September 5th PD for teachers. F-25 – it is a PD since Franklin is an S1A building. Ms. Carbonell stated we need to invest in academics.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Ms. Santana (F-13)

MOTION CARRIED

Operations Committee Resolutions:

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following resolutions were moved by Ms. Santana, seconded by Mrs. Scott-Hayden, 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. APPROVE SERVICE PROPOSAL – BUGEX

Approve BugEx (pest control and IPM law compliance services) for the period July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

O-3. APPROVE GATEWAY FAMILY YMCA FIVE POINT BRANCH

Approve early care and aftercare contracts and addenda with the Gateway Family YMCA Five Point Branch for the 2023-2024 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

O-4. APPROVE GATEWAY FAMILY YMCA – PRESCHOOL CONTRACT

Approve Preschool Education Program Contract with the Gateway Family YMCA for the 2023-2024 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

O-5. APPROVE TOWNLEY PRESCHOOL-WONDER TWIN POWERS – PRESCHOOL CONTRACT

Approve Preschool Education Program Contract with the Townley Preschool-Wonder Twin Powers for the 2023-2024 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

O-6. APPROVE ESPIN PRESCHOOL LEARNING CENTER – PRESCHOOL CONTRACT

Approve Preschool Education Program Contract with the ESPIN Preschool Learning Center for the 2023-2024 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

O-7. APPROVE BRAINIAC’S CHILDCARE CENTER – PRESCHOOL CONTRACT

Approve Preschool Education Program Contract with Brainiac’s Childcare Center for the 2023-2024 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

O-8. APPROVE UNION TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY ACTION ORGANIZATION, INC. – PRESCHOOL CONTRACT

Approve Preschool Education Program Contract with Union Township Community Action Organization, Inc. (UTCAO) for the 2023-2024 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

DISCUSSION:

Ms. Santana stated that all of our buildings will be ready and up to par for September. Mrs. Minneci stated O-7 and O-8 are new facilities. Mrs. Koon said yes. We have 300 students in district, 150 are in outside facilities and there are 15 students in each for O-7 and O-8.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Personnel Committee Resolutions:

Mrs. Scott-Hayden stated there will be a P-1A walk-on added to P-1A. Mr. Buggy stated that two additional agenda items will be added; P-12 and P-13 and he read them into the record.

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

P-1A. PERSONNEL ACTIONS – NEW HIRES

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

P-1B PERSONNEL ACTIONS – EXTRA PAY

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

P-1C PERSONNEL ACTIONS – TRANSFERS

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

P-2. APPROVE SUBSTITUTE LISTS

Approve Substitute Lists for the 2023-2024 school year.

Name	Position	Rate
Kenneth Elliot	Sub-security	\$15.00/hr.
Allyson G. Castro Jovel	Sub-custodian	\$16.00/hr.
Betram Jordan	Sub-custodian	\$16.00/hr.
Tamika Ferguson	Sub-custodian	\$16.00/hr.
Victor Lastre*	Sub-custodian	\$16.00/hr.
Robertta Plattner	Sub-secretary-WES	\$13.00/hr.
Donna Carlyle	Sub-secretary-BHES	\$13.00/hr.
Gina Ciaccio	Sub-secretary-CFES	\$13.00/hr.
Rosalie Melegh	Sub-secretary-HCES	\$13.00/hr.
Ellyn Smith	Sub-secretary-FES	\$13.00/hr.
Maria Marques	Sub-secretary-HCES	\$13.00/hr.
Frank James Giamella	Daily sub for carpentry	\$120.00/per day

*Pending receipt of additional document

P-3A. ACCEPT LETTERS OF RESIGNATION/RETIREMENT

Accept letters of resignation/retirement from the following staff:

Name	Position	Location	Eff. Date	Reason
Sandra Lemos	Bus driver	Transportation	7/29/2023	Resignation
Monika Roberts	School counselor	UHS	9/1/2023	Resignation
Amany Zakry	Paraprofessional	Hannah Caldwell	8/2/2023	Resignation
Eliza Stypulkowski	ESL teacher	UHS	7/31/2023	Resignation
Judite Ramos	Bus aide	Transportation	7/29/2023	Resignation
Gary Zarro	Bus driver	Transportation	8/2/2023	Resignation

P-3B. APPROVE LEAVES

Approve leaves for the following staff:

Name	Position	Location	Leave Dates	Leave Type	Notes
Luigi Cerciello	Custodian	Livingston	8/1/2023-6/30/2024	Intermittent leave	
Jaclyn Vincent	Teacher-special ed	Connecticut Farms	9/1/2023-6/30/2024	Intermittent leave	

P-4. 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-5. APPROVE ATTENDANCE – EDUCATIONAL/CURRICULUM MEETINGS –MUJC

Approve attendance for educational/curriculum meetings at Morris Union Jointure Commission for the 2023-2024 school year (at no cost to the district) as follows:

Principals	Vice Principals	Supervisors	Directors	Assistant Superintendents
Althea Bossard	Terrell Rutty	Nicole Ahern	Randi Hutchinson	Gretel Perez
David Shaw	Donovan Smalls	Maureen Corbett	Jeremy Cohen	Gerry Benaquista
Jason Malands	Delfin Santiago	Theresa Matthews	Sandra Paul	
Laura Damato	Cheryl Fiske	Robert Ghiretti	Craig Wojcik	
Kira Baskerville	Desmond Stapleton	Ronald Rago	Lauren Walker	
Ben Kloc	Shawn Paterno	William Eichert	Kim Conti	
Tom Matthews	Gina Calderone	Chris Carew	Isabella Scocozza	
Michelle Warren-Osborne	Yvonne Lorenzo	Joseph Seugling	Ann Hart	
Sharon Drayton	Laurie Roof	Nicole Nickels	Ron Zieser	
Mark Hoyt	Delia McClean			
	Kelly Piano			

P-6. APPROVE ATTENDANCE AT ASBO INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE – KOON

Approve Yolanda Koon to attend the ASBO International Annual Conference in National Harbor, Maryland (October 19-22, 2023) for a total cost not to exceed \$2,700.00.

P-7. APPROVE RESIDENCY INVESTIGATORS – 2023-2024

Approve residency investigators for the 2023-2024 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

P-8. APPROVE DESIGNEES – STUDENT ACTIVITIES ACCOUNT

Approve designees for the Student Activities Accounts for the 2023-2024 school year for Union High School, Kawameeh Middle School, Burnet Middle School Jefferson School, Battle Hill Elementary School, Connecticut Farms Elementary School, Franklin Elementary School, Hannah Caldwell Elementary School, Livingston Elementary School and Washington Elementary School, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

P-9. APPROVE CHANGE OF SALARY CLASS – EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 2023
Approve Change of Salary Class (effective September 2023), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

P-10A. APPROVE JOB DESCRIPTION – ELEMENTARY INSTRUCTIONAL COACH
Approve Job Description – Elementary Instructional Coach, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

P-10B. APPROVE JOB DESCRIPTION – SECONDARY INSTRUCTIONAL COACH
Approve Job Description – Secondary Instructional Coach, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

P-11. APPROVE 2023-2024 HOURLY RATES LIST
Approve 2023-2024 Hourly Rates List, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

P-12. APPROVE TO AMEND RESOLUTION
Approve resolution to amend the resolution dated July 18, 2023 to reflect a revised effective date of August 31, 2023 of Dr. Scott Taylor’s resignation.

P-13 - RESOLUTION APPOINTING ACTING/INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, the current Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Scott Taylor, tendered his resignation, which the Board accepted, with a revised effective date of August 31, 2023;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Title 18A of New Jersey Statutes Annotated, it is necessary for the Board to appoint an Acting/Interim Superintendent of Schools to fulfill the duties of Superintendent; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to appoint Dr. Gerald Benaquista as Acting/Interim Superintendent effective September 1, 2023, until further notice;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board approves the appointment of Dr. Gerald Benaquista as Acting/Interim Superintendent for the District effective September 1, 2023, until further notice, at a per diem stipend of \$400 per each day actually worked; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the foregoing appointment is subject to approval of the Executive County Superintendent for the County of Union pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7-8 and N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-3.1.

DISCUSSION:
None

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

NAY: Mrs. Brens-Watson (P-13)

ABSTAIN: Mrs. Brens-Watson (P-1A, B, C)

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 2415.50 – TITLE I – SCHOOL PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Approve Policy 2415.50 – Title I – School Parent and Family Engagement for the following schools (a) Franklin Elementary School, (b) Jefferson School, (c) Burnet Middle School and (d) Union High School, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

POL-2. APPROVE POLICY 5600 – STUDENT DISCIPLINE/CODE OF CONDUCT (M)

Approve Policy 5600 – Student Discipline/Code of Conduct, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

POL-3. APPROVE REGULATION 5600 – STUDENT DISCIPLINE/CODE OF CONDUCT (M)

Approve Regulation 5600 – Student Discipline/Code of Conduct, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

POL-4. APPROVE POLICY 5512 – HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION AND BULLYING (M)

Approve Policy 5512 – Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

DISCUSSION:

None

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and the Policy Committee, the following policy was presented by Mrs. Williams for first reading:

POL-5. APPROVE REGULATION 2464 – GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS (M)

Approve Regulation 2464 – Gifted and Talented Students, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

DISCUSSION:

Mrs. Williams stated she believes that the changes made to this regulation lowers the standards for gifted and talented students and various sections should not be removed.

Approval of Bills:

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and moved by Mrs. Scott-Hayden, seconded by Ms. Carbonell, 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, Mrs. Minneci, Mr. O'Shea,
Ms. Santana, Mrs. Scott-Hayden, Mrs. Williams, Ms. McKenzie

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Unfinished Business:

Mr. O'Shea stated he met with the Boy Scouts/Eagle Scouts of Connecticut Farms. As you know the cannon is in sad shape and old. He stated that the Eagle Scouts will take on this project to preserve it as an Eagle Scout project. This is a good opportunity for the beautification of our buildings.

Mrs. Brens-Watson asked about the status of North Third Street. Dr. Benaquista stated it is not easy to change. We can place a crossing guard and increase signage. Once the school is open, we will observe the traffic and he will be meeting with the Security Manager for options. He stated he would come back to the Board in September. He also stated that there needs to be communication to the parents in the beginning of school year.

Mrs. Minneci stated that it is Township property so you need to work with the Township because it is their jurisdiction. Dr. Benaquista stated he would have the Township present to the Board.

New Business:

Mrs. Minneci stated thank you to the UTEA for the block party today. Ms. Carbonell stated it was great for parents and kids, it was a lot of fun and the food was delicious.

Ms. Santana stated congratulations to Dr. Benaquista as the interim superintendent. She stated she challenges him to live up to us and do what needs to be done; lead us to greatness. We have a lot to do. Dr. Benaquista stated thank you, it was not an easy decision. I have listened to the concerns to fix it. A huge task is ahead of us. We need to work together with the UTEA and UTASA. The cohesiveness of this Board will support getting this done.

Mrs. Williams also congratulated Dr. Benaquista.

Comments from the Public:

Jill Hall stated congratulations to Dr. Benaquista. She stated she traveled with 22 students to Spain and it was an amazing experience. She stated that Iceland is in 2024 and Greece is in 2025.

There is an initiative and the Police Department will help. It has to do with contraband and how it is disposed of and the paperwork that will need to be completed. It will help our kids.

Ann Margaret Shannon stated thank you about our event today. We had civic leaders there too. It was an amazing event. It was to get all our Town to come together and town restaurants did well. UTEA pays for all of this; it is about being part of the community. She also stated that the UTEA gives out \$8,000 in scholarships and there is an upcoming golf outing on Wednesday and if you don't play golf, there is a lunch only at Galloping Hill for \$35 each.

Michael Cohan stated that surveys are a blunt instrument, the only way to find out about things is to speak with teachers. What types of reading programs is the district using? We need to recommit ourselves for reading literacy. We need to learn to read and read to learn.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the Board in public session it was moved by Mrs. Scott-Hayden, seconded by Mrs. Williams, that the meeting be adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Yolanda Koon

YOLANDA KOON
BOARD SECRETARY

