

TOWNSHIP OF UNION BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – July 14, 2025

NOTICE OF MEETING:

TO ALL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS:

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Township of Union was held on Monday, July 14, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. at the Administration Building, 2369 Morris Avenue, Union, New Jersey pursuant to the notice sent to each member.

Ms. Carbonell called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:

Ms. Dixiana Carbonell, Mr. Michael Cohan, Mrs. Guida Faria, Mr. Ronnie McDowell, Mrs. Nancy Minneci, Mr. Greg Nasta, Mrs. Kimberly Scott-Hayden

ABSENT AT ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Elsie Conteh-Mackey (arrived 5:13 p.m.), Ms. Chastity Santana

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Dr. Gerald Benaquista, Dr. Jose Rodriguez, Mrs. Yolanda Koon

ALSO PRESENT:

Mr. Philip Gertner, Esq.

Mrs. Scott-Hayden led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance and read the district's mission statement – Empower and Inspire Every Student, Every Day.

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

MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Moved by Mrs. Scott-Hayden, seconded by Mrs. Faria, that the Board go into Executive Session at 5:05 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: Mr. Cohan, Mrs. Faria, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Minneci, Mr. Nasta,  
Mrs. Scott-Hayden, Ms. Carbonell

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Nasta and Mrs. Faria left the meeting prior to returning back to public.

The Board returned to public session at 6:36 p.m.

**MOTION TO RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION:**

There being no further business before the Board, it was moved by Mrs. Scott-Hayden, seconded by Mr. Cohan, that the Board return to public session at 6:36 p.m.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

**Approval of Minutes:**

Moved by Mrs. Conteh-Mackey, seconded by Mr. Cohan, that the following minutes be adopted:

1. June 10, 2025 – worksession
2. June 10, 2025 – executive session
3. June 11, 2025 – special meeting
4. June 17, 2025 – executive session #1 and #2
5. June 17, 2025 – regular meeting

**DISCUSSION:**

None

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

**Communications:**

**LETTER OF RESIGNATION – ANTOLOVICH**

Letter of resignation from Melissa Antolovich, library media specialist-Jefferson School, effective June 25, 2025.

**LETTER OF RESIGNATION – BROWN**

Letter of resignation from Steven Brown, math teacher-Burnet Middle School, effective August 21, 2025.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION – RAMIREZ

Letter of resignation from Anaelisa Ramirez, school nurse-Hannah Caldwell Elementary School, effective July 1, 2025.

LETTER OF RETIREMENT – NIOTIS

Letter of resignation, for the purpose of retirement, from Asimina Niotis, bus driver-Transportation Department, effective September 1, 2025.

LETTER OF RETIREMENT – SANTIAGO

Letter of resignation, for the purpose of retirement, from Rosa Santiago, bus aide-Transportation Department, effective June 25, 2025.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE – DALY

Request for paid child rearing leave followed by unpaid FMLA/NJFLA from Shannon Daly, English teacher-Union High School, September 2, 2025-February 2, 2026.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE – ZULUAGA POSADA

Request for paid child rearing leave followed by unpaid FMLA/NJFLA from Daniela Zuluaga Posada, paraprofessional-Kawameeh Middle School, September 1, 2025-January 20, 2026.

REQUEST FOR INTERMITTENT LEAVE – BRUNS MEYERS

Request for paid intermittent FMLA from Kathleen Bruns Meyers, PreK teacher-Livingston Elementary School, September 2, 2025-June 30, 2026.

REQUEST FOR INTERMITTENT LEAVE – PACE

Request for paid intermittent FMLA from Jo Ann Pace, speech teacher-Jefferson School, September 2, 2025-June 30, 2026.

REQUEST FOR INTERMITTENT LEAVE – ZURKA

Request for paid intermittent FMLA from Christine Zurka, paraprofessional-Battle Hill Elementary School, September 1, 2025-June 30, 2026.

REQUEST FOR INTERMITTENT LEAVE – NAVARRETE

Request for paid intermittent FMLA from Angel Navarrete, teacher-special services-Union High School, September 1, 2025-June 30, 2026.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE UPDATE – MATOS

Request for leave update from Sara Matos, career ed teacher-Union High School, new return date October 1, 2025.

REQUEST FROM UNION POLICE DEPARTMENT – UNION HIGH SCHOOL FACILITY

Request from the Union Police Department to use the Union High School gym area and bathrooms for the Police Academy Program on July 11, 2025 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

### Comments from Public (on resolutions):

Board President Carbonell read the following statement:

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

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

Each speaker will be given three minutes to address the board. Please remember that while we are eager to hear your perspectives, we may be unable to engage in back-and-forth dialogue during this portion of the meeting. However, your comments will be carefully reviewed and taken into consideration by the board, and if feasible, the Superintendent or designee, will respond to questions in real time or provide a response at a later time.

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

Virginia Jeffries – Policy 9130 – asked questions about the changes and formatting and indicated regulation 9130 should mirror the policy. Board President asked the Policy Committee to look into it.

Board Attorney Gertner indicated that you don't need regulations just policies.

### Education/Student Discipline Committee Resolutions:

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

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

Superintendent's Report of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) for the period June 18, 2025 to July 14, 2025, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes (*no vote required; for reporting purposes only*).

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

Affirm the Superintendent's determination of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) for the periods June 11, 2025 to June 17, 2025, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

#### E-2. APPROVE BI-ANNUAL REPORT – NJDOE – HIB

Approve the Township of Union Public Schools bi-annual report presented by the Superintendent as required by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) of Harassment Intimidation and Bullying (HIB). The report provides the public with the information collected

from January 2025 through June 2025, as well as the number of incidents per school building, status of investigations, HIB investigators, nature of the HIB reports and the discipline resulting from the report findings. The HIB report also includes all training of school district personnel, building programs and assemblies during the time period.

**E-3. APPROVE GIRLS ON THE RUN PROGRAM – CONNECTICUT FARMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Approve Girls on the Run Program at Connecticut Farms Elementary School for grades 3-4 (September 15-November 18, 2025 (Mondays and Tuesdays), from 3:00-4:15 p.m.), at a cost of \$25.00 per student.

**E-4. APPROVE SUBSCRIPTION AGREEMENTS – CENTRAL REACH (SILAS)**

Approve the subscription agreements for Central Reach (SILAS) for all district schools for the 2025-2026 school year in the amount of \$8,500.02 for July-December 2025 and \$8,500.02 for January through June 2026 (to be paid for using Mental Health Depression Screener funds, Account #20499).

**E-5. ACCEPT BOOK DONATION – BRIDGE OF BOOKS FOUNDATION**

Approve acceptance of a donation of 1500 books and reading cushions to the district for Hannah Caldwell Elementary School from Bridge of Books Foundation (each student will receive two choice books and cushion to encourage reading).

**E-6. APPROVE MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER – GIAN PAUL GONZALEZ**

Approve Gian Paul Gonzalez, motivational speaker, to present social emotional learning assemblies to Kawameeh Middle School students on October 9, 2025 at a cost of \$3,143.25 (to be paid for using Mental Health Depression Screener funds, Account #20497).

**E-7. APPROVE REFUSAL OF PERKINS FUNDS**

Approve refusal of Perkins funds for the 2025-2026 school year based on the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) criteria.

**E-8. APPROVE PRE-K-3 PROVIDER SCHOOL CALENDAR – YM-YWHA**

Approve school calendar for Pre-K-3 provider YM-YWHA, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**E-9. APPROVE VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION PROGRAM AND PLAN - 2025-2026**

Approve Virtual Instruction Program and TUPS Virtual or Remote Instruction Plan and Checklist for the 2025-2026 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**DISCUSSION:**

Mrs. Minneci - E-8 – our students attend this pre-k-3 school and their school calendar is different from the district's calendar. Dr. Rodriguez indicated that our parents have an option to refuse this facility.

Mr. Cohan – E-9 – is required by the NJDOE and virtual learning is only for extreme emergencies.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

**Fiscal and Planning Committee Resolutions:**

Mr. Cohan – F-18 – is in preparation of the potential bond referendum and there are strict timelines.

He also indicated that the State Legislators were successful in lobbying for the district and the district will receive \$4.2 million for capital expenses - \$2 million for Hannah Caldwell Elementary School. Mr. Benaquista and Mrs. Koon will go through our accounts to see where the other \$2.25 million will be distributed.

Mrs. Koon indicated that F-1 through F-4 will be approved at the August 2025 Board meeting.

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

F-1. TREASURER’S REPORT (*to be approved at August 2025 meeting*)  
That the *preliminary* Treasurer’s Report dated June 30, 2025 be accepted.

F-2. SECRETARY’S REPORT (*to be approved at August 2025 meeting*)  
That the *preliminary* Secretary’s Report dated June 30, 2025 be accepted.

F-3. CERTIFY PRELIMINARY TREASURER’S AND SECRETARY’S REPORT (*to be certified at August 2025 meeting*)

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(a), I certify that as of June 30, 2025 no budgetary line item account has obligations and payments (contractual orders) which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the district Board of education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8 and 18:22-8.1.

/s/ Yolanda Koon

Yolanda Koon, Board Secretary

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Dated

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

F-4. APPROVE APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS *(to be approved at August 2025 meeting)*  
Approve appropriation transfers.

F-5. APPROVE LIST OF CONTRACTS/PURCHASE ORDERS

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

F-6. APPROVE DISTRICTWIDE TRAVEL AND RELATED EXPENSES

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

F-7. 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 2025-2026 STATE CONTRACT APPROVED VENDORS

Approve the amended list of the 2025-2026 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
Kawameeh Middle School	22/Yearbook	Jostens Inc. – balance for 2024-2025 yearbooks	\$2,000.00 (not to exceed)
Battle Hill Elementary School	2035/principal's Account	Township of Union Board of Education – transfer funds from Student Account that should have been deposited into BH Fund 20 Account	\$3,266.28
Union High School	2033/Marching Band	Bandmans – 2025 Guard Costumes	\$1,879.20
Union High School	2012/Prom	Pabiana Aparicio – prom décor 2026	\$6,000.00 (not to exceed)
Union High School	2012/Prom	Image Bar Photobooth – prom photobooth 2026	\$3,000.00 (not to exceed)
Union High School	2012/Prom	Marcel Smith – Prom DJ 2026	\$4,000.00 (not to exceed)
Union High School	2012/Prom	C&R Graphics-staff merch for 2025-2026 school year	\$10,000.00 (not to exceed)
Union High School	2012/Prom	The Grand Marquis – prom venue 2026	\$65,000.00 (not to exceed)

**F-9B. APPROVE FUNDRAISERS**

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

Event Name	Date	Purpose
Thanks4giving Cool School Challenge Dash and Splash	September 4, 2025 - December 27, 2025	UHS/Unified Club, SONJ Club, Club TESSLO – to raise funds for clubs
Snack and Water Sales	September 3, 2025- June 30, 2026	UHS/Unified Club, SONJ Club, Club TESSLO – to raise funds for Unified activities, Special Olympics
Spirit Wear Sales	September 5, 2025- June 30, 2026	UHS/Unified Club, SONJ Club, Club TESSLO – to raise funds for Unified program and Special Olympics
Donors Choose	September 1, 2025- August 30, 2026	UHS/Self-contained/WBL program – to raise funds for items needed for WBL program
Soda Machine	September 1, 2025- June 30, 2026	UHS/Prom – to raise funds for prom
Staff March	September 1, 2025- June 30, 2026	UHS/Prom – to raise funds for prom
Step Challenge	September 1, 2025- June 30, 2026	UHS/Prom – to raise funds for prom
Snack Sales	September 1, 2025- June 30, 2026	UHS/Prom – to raise funds for prom
Staff Dress Down Month	September 1, 2025- June 30, 2026	UHS/Prom – to raise funds for prom
Snack Sale	September 1, 2025- June 30, 2026	UHS/Junior Class – to raise funds for Class of 2027
Bake Sale	September 1, 2025- June 30, 2026	UHS/Junior Class – to raise fund for the Class of 2027
Class of 2027 Merchandise	September 1, 2025- June 30, 2026	UHS/Junior Class – to raise funds for Class of 2027
Junior Class Dance	September 1, 2025- June 30, 2026	UHS/Junior Class – to raise funds for Class of 2027
Car Wash	September 1, 2025- June 30, 2026	UHS/Junior Class – to raise funds for Class of 2027
Cultural Night	September 1, 2025- June 30, 2026	UHS/Junior Class – to raise funds for Class of 2027
Candy Grams	September 1, 2025- June 30, 2026	UHS/Junior Class – to raise funds for Class of 2027
Dodge Ball Tournament	September 1, 2025- June 30, 2026	UHS/Junior Class – to raise funds for Class of 2027
Carnival and Dunk Tank	September 1, 2025- June 30, 2026	UHS/Junior Class – to raise funds for Class of 2027
Video Game Tournament	September 1, 2025- June 30, 2026	UHS/Junior Class – to raise funds for Class of 2027
Tape-A-Teacher	September 1, 2025- June 30, 2026	UHS/Junior Class – to raise funds for Class of 2027
Scavenger Hunt	September 1, 2025- June 30, 2026	UHS/Junior Class – to raise funds for Class of 2027
Dine to Donate	September 1, 2025- June 30, 2026	UHS/Junior Class – to raise funds for Class of 2027
Badminton Tournament	September 1, 2025- June 30, 2026	UHS/Junior Class – to raise funds for Class of 2027



Senior Parking Spot Painting/Decorating	September 1, 2025- November 3, 2025	UHS/Class of 2026 – to raise funds for Class of 2026
Chips, Candy, Ramen	September 5, 2025- June 30, 2026	UHS/Cosmetology – to raise funds for classroom supplies, State Board Fees, etc.

**F-9C. ACCEPT DONATIONS**

Accept the following donations:

From	For Use By	\$/Item
Shutterfly, LLC	Franklin Elementary School	\$452.84
Wells Fargo – Fekete, M. Mem Edu Scholarship Fund	TUPS - Margaret Fekete Senior Scholarship Award	\$68,000.00
Shutterfly LLC	Washington Elementary School	\$719.07

**F-10. APPROVE 2025-2026 OUT-OF-DISTRICT STUDENT PLACEMENT LIST**

Approval be given to amend the 2025-2026 out-of-district student placement list (month of July), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-11. APPROVE TO AMEND LIST OF STUDENT ACTIVITY ACCOUNTS**

Approve to amend the list of Student Activity Accounts to include the following: (a) Red Cross Club.

**F-12. APPROVE UHS SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP AWARD – MARGARET FEKETE FUND**

Approve the Senior Scholarship Award for Union High School graduates from the Margaret Fekete Fund, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-13. APPROVE PETTY CASH ACCOUNT – UNION HIGH SCHOOL**

Approve a petty cash account at Union High School for the Farmer's Café in the amount of \$3,000.00 to be replenished as needed (not to exceed \$5,000.00) for costs associated with students' IEP driven Work Based Learning (WBL) for the 2025-2026 school year [Account Fund #11-212-100-610-01-19-CAFÉ-050/20471].

**F-14. APPROVE PETTY CASH ACCOUNT – COMMUNITY BASED INSTRUCTION**

Approve a petty cash account for costs associated with students' IEP driven Community Based Instruction (CBI) for the 2025-2026 school year at the following schools: (a) Burnet Middle School - \$4,250.00; (b) Kawameeh Middle School - \$2,000.00; (c) Union High School - \$11,750.00.

**F-15. APPROVE JEWISH VOCATIONAL SERVICES – VOCATIONAL EVALUATIONS**

Approve Jewish Vocational Services to provide vocational evaluations (2-3) days) at the rate of \$1,200 per evaluation for the 2025-2026 school year (not to exceed \$3,600.00) [Account Fund #11-000-219-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-16a. APPROVE PARENT/PUPIL TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT – 2025-2026**

Approve parent/pupil transportation contract for special education student attending DLC Warren (Warren, NJ) at the rate of \$49.00 per day (not to exceed \$10,290.00) for the 2025-2026 school year, in accordance with the non-public information appended to the minutes.

**F-16b. APPROVE PARENT/PUPIL TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT – 2025-2026**

Approve parent/pupil transportation contract for special education student attending Phoenix Center (Nutley, NJ) at the rate of \$42.80 per day (not to exceed \$8,988.00) for the 2025-2026 school year, in accordance with the non-public information appended to the minutes.

**F-16c. APPROVE PARENT/PUPIL TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT – 2025-2026**

Approve parent/pupil transportation contract for special education student attending Capstone (Wayne, NJ) at the rate of \$79.20 per day (not to exceed \$16,632.00) for the 2025-2026 school year, in accordance with the non-public information appended to the minutes.

**F-16d. APPROVE PARENT/PUPIL TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT – 2025-2026**

Approve parent/pupil transportation contract for special education student attending DLC (New Providence, NJ) at the rate of \$33.60 per day (not to exceed \$7,056.00) for the 2025-2026 school year, in accordance with the non-public information appended to the minutes.

**F-17. APPROVE RESOLUTION TO INCREASE BID THRESHOLD**

Approve Resolution to increase bid threshold from \$44,000 to \$53,000, effective July 1, 2025, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:34-7 and N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3(b), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-18. REPORT RECEIPT OF PROPOSALS AND APPROVE ENGINEERING SERVICES**

Report receipt of proposals for engineering services from (a) T&M and (b) Morgan Municipal Engineering Services and the Superintendent recommends approving Morgan Municipal Engineering Services for pre and post referendum services, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-ATTY. *For informational purposes only – vote not required.* List of legal services paid as of June 17, 2025 for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**DISCUSSION:**

None

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Operations/Technology Committee Resolutions:**

Mrs. Conteh-Mackey indicated that at the committee meeting they discussed infrastructure, IT, safety and they will now be including transportation.

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following resolutions were moved by Mrs. Conteh-Mackey, seconded by Mr. Cohan, 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 2024-2025 school year, in accordance with the non-public information appended to the minutes.

**O-2. APPROVE SCHOOL SECURITY DRILL STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE**

Approve School Security Drill Statement of Assurance for the 2024-2025 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**O-3. REQUEST FROM UNION POLICE DEPARTMENT – UNION HIGH SCHOOL FACILITY**

Request from the Union Police Department to use the Union High School gym area and bathrooms for the Police Academy Program on July 11, 2025 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**T-1. APPROVE RECYCLING OF EQUIPMENT**

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

**DISCUSSION:**

None

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Personnel Committee Resolutions:**

Mrs. Scott-Hayden indicated that the district is trying to fill the librarian vacancy at Jefferson School and spoke about the other vacancies that need to be filled – Spanish, ESL, Special Ed.

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following resolutions were moved by Mrs. Scott-Hayden, seconded by Mrs. Conteh-Mackey, 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 2025-2026 school year.

Name	Position	Rate
Vincent Price	Sub-custodian	\$16.00/hr.
Diane Esquivel	Sub-custodian	\$16.00/hr.

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

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

Name	Position	Location	Eff. Date	Reason	Yrs/Service
Melissa Antolovich	Library media specialist	Jefferson	6/25/2025	Resignation	
Steven Brown	Math teacher	BMS	8/21/2025	Resignation	
Anaelisa Ramirez	Nurse	Hannah Caldwell	7/1/2025	Resignation	
Asimina Niotis	Bus driver	Transportation Dept.	9/1/2025	Retirement	18 yrs.
Rosa Santiago	Bus aide	Transportation Dept.	6/25/2025	Retirement	12 yrs.

**P-3B. APPROVE LEAVES**

Approve leaves for the following staff:

Name	Position	Location	Leave Dates	Leave Type
Shannon Daly	English teacher	UHS	9/2/2025-2/2/2026	Paid child rearing leave followed by unpaid FMLA/NJFLA
Daniela Zuluaga Posada	Paraprofessional	Kawameeh	9/1/2025-1/20/2026	Paid child rearing leave followed by unpaid FMLA/NJFLA
Kathleen Bruns Meyers	PreK teacher	Livingston	Intermittent 9/2/2025-6/30/2026	Paid intermittent FMLA
Jo Ann Pace	Speech teacher	Jefferson	Intermittent 9/2/2025-6/30/2026	Paid intermittent FMLA
Christine Zurka	Paraprofessional	Battle Hill	Intermittent 9/1/2025-6/30/2026	Paid intermittent FMLA
Angel Navarrete	Teacher-special services	UHS	Intermittent 9/1/2025-6/30/2026	Paid intermittent FMLA
Sara Matos	Career Ed teacher	UHS	New return date 10/1/2025	New return date

P-4. APPROVE STUDENT TEACHERS AND INTERNSHIPS

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

P-5. APPROVE CARE STATION – EMPLOYEE PHYSICALS

Approve Care Station to perform employee physicals for the 2025-2026 school year [Account Fund #11-000-213-330-01-54-0060].

P-6. APPROVE CITYMD URGENT CARE – EMPLOYEE PHYSICALS

Approve CityMD Urgent Care to perform employee physicals for the 2025-2026 school year [Account Fund #11-000-213-330-01-54-0060].

P-7. APPROVE ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS - MUJC

Approve attendance at meetings at the Morris Union Jointure Commission (MUJC) at no cost to the district for the 2025-2026 school year for the following: (a) Kim Conti, Director of Special Services, (b) Joseph Seugling, Supervisor of Special Services, (c) Stefannie Buthorn, Supervisor of Special Services and (d) Christopher Carew, Supervisor of Special Services.

P-8. APPROVE ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS – UCASE

Approve Kim Conti, Director of Special Services, to attend meetings at Union County Administrators of Special Education (UCASE), at a cost not to exceed \$75.00 for membership dues for the 2025-2026 school year [Account Fund #11-000-219-890-01-19].

P-9. ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF EVALUATION - DR. BENAQUISTA

Acknowledge receipt of Superintendent Evaluation from Board to Dr. Benaquista (finalized June 17, 2025) *(no vote required; for informational purposes only)*.

DISCUSSION:

None

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Policy Committee:

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following policy was moved by Mrs. Minneci, seconded by Mr. Cohan, for *FIRST READING*:

POL-1. POLICY 9130 – PUBLIC COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES

Approve Policy 9130 – Public Complaints and Grievances.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Cohan indicated that there are specific changes to the existing policy and they are underscored.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

#### Residency Committee Resolutions:

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

#### 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
#300781	Burnet Middle School – 7 <sup>th</sup> grade
#351114	Livingston Elementary School – 2 <sup>nd</sup> grade
#305031	Kawameeh Middle School – 7 <sup>th</sup> grade
#370852	Hannah Caldwell Elementary School – Kindergarten
#330291	Connecticut Farms Elementary School – 4 <sup>th</sup> grade
#276077	Union High School – 10 <sup>th</sup> grade
#296069	Burnet Middle School – 8 <sup>th</sup> grade
#359060	Battle Hill Elementary School – 2 <sup>nd</sup> grade
#350821	Hannah Caldwell Elementary School – 2 <sup>nd</sup> grade

*For informational purposes only (no vote required):* The following totals are as of the June 17, 2025 Board meeting (2024-2025 school year):

Students Removed:	8
Students Voluntarily Transferred:	21

#### DISCUSSION:

Mrs. Minneci indicated that our investigators are working diligently over the summer. Mrs. Scott-Hayden indicated that we need to acknowledge the investigators.

#### Approval of Bills:

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and moved by Mrs. Scott-Hayden, seconded by Mrs. Minneci, 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: Mr. Cohan, Mrs. Conteh-Mackey, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Minneci,  
Mrs. Scott-Hayden, Ms. Carbonell

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

#### Unfinished Business:

Dr. Benaquista indicated that a letter will be going out tomorrow to the HCES families and an open house will be sometime at the end of August. A short video of the updated school was shown. He indicated that the Univents are the last things to be installed and we are waiting for delivery of the order. HCES will be the model for all other school improvements.

Mrs. Minneci – thanked Dr. Benaquista on the graduation – everything went well – it was quick, and all the students were happy.

Ms. Carbonell – thank you to you and your leadership team – everyone worked together.

#### New Business:

Mr. McDowell – the district's baseball field is not a great field to watch a game. We need to find a solution – maybe move the dugouts or bleachers. Dr. Benaquista indicated the cost is high and that is why it hasn't been done. Either we will need to budget it or raise money but we will also need to include the softball field. He will speak with Mr. Zieser and ask Mr. Dowie if this is part of the long-term facility plan.

Mrs. Conteh-Mackey – she received a survey from the State for special education students. Parents should be aware if they receive it to fill it out. Dr. Benaquista asked Dr. Rodriguez to send out a notice.

#### Comments from the Public:

Virginia Jeffries – congratulated the district on the \$4.2 million. The district will be seeing savings with the new Univents at Hannah Caldwell and it will help with respiratory issues.

Policy 9130 – asked various questions concerning this policy. Board President Carbonell indicated that there will be more clarification at next month's meeting.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the Board in public session it was moved by Mrs. Minneci, seconded by Mrs. Scott-Hayden, that the meeting be adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

*Yolanda Koon*

YOLANDA KOON  
BOARD SECRETARY



