

TOWNSHIP OF UNION BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
July 31, 2025

NOTICE OF MEETING:

TO ALL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS:

The special meeting of the Board of Education of the Township of Union was held on Thursday, July 31, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at the Administration Building, 2369 Morris Avenue, Union, New Jersey pursuant to the notice sent to each member. Action was taken.

Ms. Carbonell called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:

Ms. Dixiana Carbonell, Mr. Michael Cohan, Mrs. Elsie Conteh-Mackey, Mr. Ronnie McDowell, Mr. Greg Nasta, Ms. Chastity Santana, Mrs. Kimberly Scott-Hayden

ABSENT AT ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Guida Faria, Mrs. Nancy Minneci,

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Dr. Gerald Benaquista, Ms. Marissa McKenzie, Dr. Jose Rodriguez, Mrs. Yolanda Koon

ALSO PRESENT:

Mr. Lester Taylor, Esq.

Mr. Nasta led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance and the district's mission statement.

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

Comments from the Public (resolutions only):

Ann Margaret Shannon - UTEA President commented that last year both the UTEA, Board member, and some administration traveled to Cali for a labor Management Conference to help with the communication and to collaborate on district issues. She expressed disappointment regarding the latest hiring positions. She said what is happening here. We should have at least been informed as a courtesy. We are being totally left out of the communication(s). I don't know what is going on.

UTEA president made a few comments about the architects and engineers and changes of locations of schools, academies, from the proposal, etc. We are receiving an additional \$4.2m from State, well I hope UTEA can get some of that money and settle our contract.

### Fiscal and Planning Committee Resolutions:

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

#### F-1. 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.

#### DISCUSSION:

None

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

### Operations/Technology Committee Resolutions:

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following resolutions were moved by Mr. Nasta, seconded by Mrs. Conteh-Mackey, for adoption:

#### O-1. APPROVE USE OF FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Approve the use of the parking lot and support spaces at Franklin Elementary School from August 5, 2025-August 28, 2025 by Warner Brothers Pictures, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

#### DISCUSSION:

None

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

### Personnel Committee Resolutions:

Superintendent administratively pulled P1A-Admin from the Personnel agenda.

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following resolutions were moved by Ms. Santana, seconded by Mr. Nasta, 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 – TRANSFERS

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

**P-2. AUTHORIZATION FOR SUPERINTENDET TO HIRE STAFF BETWEEN JULY 1, 2025 AND SEPTEMBER 15, 2025**

The Township of Union Board of Education hereby authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to offer employment and make staff hiring decisions as necessary between July 1, 2025 and September 15, 2025 (summer months), subject to final approval by the Board of Education at its next regularly scheduled or special meeting and that any and all such appointments made by the Superintendent shall be presented to the Board for ratification at the Board's next available public meeting.

**DISCUSSION:**

None

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Moved by Mr. Cohan, seconded by Mr. Nasta, that the Board go into Executive Session at 10:33 a.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 and any other item permitted under the statute

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

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

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

The Board returned to public session at 12:07 p.m.

**MOTION TO RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION:**

There being no further business before the Board, it was moved by Mr. Cohan, seconded by Ms. Santana, that the Board return to public session at 12:07 p.m.

AYE: Mr. Cohan, Mrs. Conteh-Mackey, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Nasta,

Mrs. Scott-Hayden, Ms. Santana, Ms. Carbonell  
NAY: None  
ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:**

There being no further business before the Board in public session it was moved by Ms. Santana, seconded by Mr. Nasta, that the meeting be adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

AYE: Mr. Cohan, Mrs. Conteh-Mackey, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Nasta,  
Mrs. Scott-Hayden, Ms. Santana, Ms. Carbonell  
NAY: None  
ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

*Yolanda Koon*

YOLANDA KOON  
BOARD SECRETARY

