NOTICE OF MEETING:

TO ALL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS:
The worksession meeting of the Board of Education of the Township of Union was held on Tuesday, November 10, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Administration Building, 2369 Morris Avenue, Union, New Jersey pursuant to the notice sent to each member. Action was taken.

Mr. Cohan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:
Mr. Michael Cohan, Mrs. Elsie Conteh-Mackey, Mrs. Guida Faria, Mr. Ronnie McDowell, Mrs. Nancy Minneci, Mr. Greg Nasta, Ms. Chastity Santana

ABSENT AT ROLL CALL:
Ms. Dicxiana Carbonell, Mrs. Kimberly Scott-Hayden

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

ALSO PRESENT:
Mr. Lester Taylor, Esq.

Mr. Cohan led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance and read 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 and posted on the Board's official website; a copy of which is on file in the office of the Board Secretary.

Approval of Minutes:
Minutes will be approved at the next Board meeting.

Communications:
Communications are part of personnel and operations.

Comments from Public (on resolutions in **BOLD** and ALL MATTERS):
Mr. Cohan - thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting and that the Board values their input and appreciates their time. She reminded the audience that all comments are to be respectful and constructive, and to refrain from calling out and yelling. The Board is unable to engage in back-and-forth dialogue; however, your comments will be reviewed and considered, and if feasible, the Superintendent or designee will provide a response at a later date.

Virginia Jeffries – spoke about the administration building at 2369 Morris Avenue, the relocation of employees to 855 Lehigh Avenue, record storage, the need to update the OPRA request, spoke

about a complaint against her by an employee of the district which has been dismissed and spoke about board members.

Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent's report will be presented next week.

Education/Student Discipline Committee Resolutions:

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

E-1. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT OF HIB
Superintendent's Report of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) for the period October 28, 2026 to November 10, 2026, in accordance with the information appended to the agenda (*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 October 14, 2026 to October 27, 2026, in accordance with the information appended to the agenda.

E-2. APPROVE DATA SHARING AGREEMENT WITH AMIRA LEARNING, INC.
Approve the addendum to the Data Sharing Agreement with Amira Learning, Inc. authorizing the direct submission of student-level universal literacy screener data to the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) on behalf of the district, in accordance with the information appended to the agenda.

E-3. APPROVE SUSPENSION – STUDENT
Approve long-term suspension and home instruction for student #286545 from the general education program.

All other resolutions will be presented and voted on at the next Board meeting.

DISCUSSION:
None

AYE: Mrs. Conteh-Mackey, Mrs. Faria, Mr. McDowell,
Mrs. Minneci, Mr. Nasta, Ms. Santana, Mr. Cohan
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: None MOTION CARRIED

Fiscal and Planning Committee Resolutions:

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following resolution was moved by Mr. McDowell, seconded by Ms. Santana, for adoption:

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 agenda.

All other resolutions will be presented and voted on at the next Board meeting.

DISCUSSION:
None

AYE: Mrs. Conteh-Mackey, Mrs. Faria, Mr. McDowell,
Mrs. Minneci, Mr. Nasta, Ms. Santana, Mr. Cohan
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: None MOTION CARRIED

Operations/Technology Committee Resolutions:

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following resolution was moved by Mr. Nasta, seconded by Mrs. Faria, for adoption:

O-3. APPROVE REQUEST TO USE UHS FOOTBALL FIELD – UNION RAMS
Approve request from Union Rams to use the Union High School Football field on November 7, 20206 from 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. for the Eastern Regional Pop Warner Playoffs (Hold Harmless Agreement and Certificate of Insurance received).

All other resolutions will be presented and voted on at the next Board meeting.

DISCUSSION:
None

AYE: Mrs. Conteh-Mackey, Mrs. Faria, Mr. McDowell,
Mrs. Minneci, Mr. Nasta, Ms. Santana, Mr. Cohan
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: None MOTION CARRIED

Personnel Committee Resolutions:

No resolutions are being approved this evening; resolutions will be presented and voted on at the next Board meeting.

Residency Committee Resolutions:

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Minneci presented the following resolutions for reporting purposes only:

R-1. REPORT OF STUDENTS TRANSFERRED TO DISTRICT OF RESIDENCE FOLLOWING RESIDENCY INVESTIGATIONS
For informational purposes only (no vote required): The following residency investigations were completed, and the listed students were transferred to the appropriate district of residence:

Student No.	School	Grade
#311073	Kawameeh Middle School	8th

For informational purposes only (no vote required): The following totals are as of the October 17, 2026 Board meeting (2026-2027 school year):

	Total	Elementary	Middle School	High School
Students Removed:	0	0	0	0
Students Transferred	9	6	1	2

Approval of Bills:

Bills will be approved at the next Board meeting.

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

Mr. Nasta – Ms. McKenzie and the Security Manager handled a student matter quickly and efficiently.

Mr. Cohan – attended meeting where staff of the Department of Education spoke on the school funding program. A link to the Statewide School Funding Outreach Survey will be sent to all Board members. The Department of Education is interested in listening to all stakeholders concerning this matter.

He spoke on how the districts funding has gone down because there is an increase in residents that have a higher income. Linden has fewer students, less free and reduced students but receives more money from the State than Union.

Board members had conversations regarding spending money effectively, figuring out how to sustain what is grant funded when the grant is no longer available, informative school funding article by the NJSBA, changes in funding won't occur until 2028-2029, the high expense items in the district are healthcare, aging facilities and special education.

MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Moved by Ms. Santana, seconded by Mrs. Faria, that the Board go into Executive Session at 7:23 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 does 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. Conteh-Mackey, Mrs. Faria, Mr. McDowell,
Mrs. Minneci, Mr. Nasta, Ms. Santana, Mr. Cohan
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: None MOTION CARRIED

The Board returned to public session at 8:19 p.m.

MOTION TO RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION:

There being no further business before the Board it was moved by Mrs. Faria, seconded by Ms. Santana, that the Board return to public session at 8:19 p.m.

AYE: Mrs. Conteh-Mackey, Mrs. Faria, Mr. McDowell,
Mrs. Minneci, Mr. Nasta, Ms. Santana, Mr. Cohan
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: None MOTION CARRIED

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the Board in public session it was moved by Mrs. Minneci, seconded by Mrs. Faria, that the meeting be adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

All present voting YES MOTION CARRIED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Yolanda Koon

YOLANDA KOON
BOARD SECRETARY