

TOWNSHIP OF UNION BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – DECEMBER 20, 2022

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, December 20, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Union High School Library, 2350 North Third Street, Union, New Jersey pursuant to notice sent to each member.

Mrs. Williams called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Yocasta Brens-Watson, Dr. Guy Francis, Ms. Marissa McKenzie, Mrs. Nancy Minneci, Mr. John O’Shea, Mrs. Nellis Regis-Darby, Ms. Chastity Santana, Mrs. Kimberly Scott-Hayden, Mrs. Mary Lynn Williams

ABSENT AT ROLL CALL:

None

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Dr. Scott Taylor, Mr. Gerald Benaquista, Dr. Gretel Perez, Mrs. Yolanda Koon

ALSO PRESENT:

Mr. Christopher Buggy, Esq.

Mrs. Minneci led the Board and audience members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Koon read the statement required under the “Open Public Meetings Act”, a copy of which is on file in the office of the Board Secretary.

Ms. McKenzie read the district’s mission statement.

COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC ON RESOLUTIONS:

None

Approval of Minutes:

Moved by Ms. Santana, seconded by Mrs. Scott-Hayden, that the following minutes be adopted:

1. October 11, 2022 – worksession
2. October 11, 2022 – executive session
3. October 18, 2022 – regular meeting
4. October 18, 2022 – executive session #1
5. October 18, 2022 – executive session #2

**DISCUSSION:**

None

**AYE:** Mrs. Brens-Watson, Dr. Francis, Ms. McKenzie, Mrs. Minneci, Mr. O’Shea,  
Mrs. Regis-Darby, Ms. Santana, Mrs. Scott-Hayden, Mrs. Williams

**NAY:** None

**ABSTAIN:** Ms. McKenzie (all minutes of October 18<sup>th</sup>)                      **MOTION CARRIED**

**Communications:**

**REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF LEAVE – KRUPA**

Request for extension of paid medical leave from Connie Krupa, Accountant-Special Education Department, new return date January 16, 2023.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE – TOBIN**

Request for paid medical leave from Susan Tobin, teacher-Washington Elementary School, October 11, 2022-December 4, 2022.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE – McCULLOH**

Request for paid medical leave from Sara McCulloh, Child Study Team-Union High School, November 4, 2022-December 22, 2022.

**REQUEST FOR INTERMITTENT LEAVE – ZURKA**

Request for intermittent leave from Christine Zurka, paraprofessional-Battle Hill Elementary School, November 18, 2022-May 17, 2023.

**REQUEST FOR INTERMITTENT LEAVE – ERICKSON**

Request for intermittent leave from Lisa Erickson, teacher-Battle Hill Elementary School, December 5, 2022-June 30, 2023.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE EXTENSION – MELCHIONNA**

Request for extension of paid medical leave from Antonella Melchionna, part-time accountant-Business Office, November 7, 2022-January 13, 2023.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE – SIBILIA**

Request for paid child rearing leave followed by unpaid FMLA/NJFLA (concurrently) from Maria Sibilias, teacher-Livingston Elementary School, January 23, 2023-May 14, 2023; return date May 15, 2022.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE – NICKELS**

Request for paid child rearing leave followed by unpaid FMLA/NJFLA (concurrently) from Nicole Nickels, preschool instruction coach -districtwide, May 1, 2022-June 20, 2023; return date September 1, 2023.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE EXTENSION – MENDES OLIVEIRA**

Request for extension of unpaid FMLA leave from Jessica Mendes Oliveira, teacher-Franklin Elementary School, new return date January 25, 2023.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE EXTENSION – GUNDERSON**

Request for extension of unpaid leave from Jamie Gunderson, teacher-Connecticut Farms Elementary School, new return date September 1, 2023.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE – LAM**

Request for unpaid leave, followed by paid child rearing leave, followed by unpaid FMLA/NJFLA (concurrently) from Christina Lam, teacher-Connecticut Farms Elementary School, November 28, 2022-May 2, 2023; return date May 3, 2023.

**REQUEST FOR INTERMITTENT LEAVE – SUPINO**

Request for intermittent leave from Judy Supino, teacher-Battle Hill Elementary School, November 29, 2022-June 30, 2023.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE – AMES VELOZ**

Request for paid child rearing leave followed by unpaid FMLA/NJFLA (concurrently) from Shaunte Ames Veloz, teacher-Kawameeh Middle School, January 17, 2023-May 29, 2023; return date May 30, 2023.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE EXTENSION – BLASI**

Request for extension of unpaid leave from Regina Blasi, teacher-Connecticut Farms Elementary School; new return date April 3, 2023.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE – MIELES**

Request for paid leave, followed by unpaid leave from Maritza Mieles, teacher-Union High School, December 7, 2022-January 12, 2023; return date January 13, 2023.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE – DAMJANOVI**

Request for paid medical leave from Lisa Damjanovi, teacher-Kawameeh Middle School, November 22, 2022-December 23, 2022; return date January 3, 2023.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE – HAQQ MUHAMMAD**

Request for paid FMLA leave from Anisah Haqq Muhammad, media specialist-Franklin Elementary School, November 16, 2022-December 5, 2022.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE – NIGRO**

Request for paid medical leave from Leslie Nigro, teacher-Jefferson School, December 7, 2022-January 18, 2023.

**REQUEST FOR INTERMITTENT LEAVE – WEBER**

Request for intermittent FMLA/NJFLA leave from Patricia Weber, teacher-Battle Hill Elementary School, October 11, 2022-June 30, 2023.

**LETTER OF RESIGNATION – ANTOINE**

Letter of resignation from Elise Antoine, paraprofessional-Hannah Caldwell Elementary School, effective December 12, 2022.

**LETTER OF RETIREMENT – CARRERO**

Letter of resignation, for the purpose of retirement, from Kristen Carrero-teacher-Hannah Caldwell Elementary School, effective January 1, 2023.

**LETTER OF RESIGNATION – COLMAN**

Letter of resignation from Atiya Colman, bus driver-Transportation Department, effective November 15, 2022.

**LETTER OF RETIREMENT – DETJEN**

Letter of resignation, for the purpose of retirement, from Laura Detjen, French teacher-Union High School, effective March 1, 2023.

**LETTER OF RESIGNATION – RUSSO**

Letter of resignation from Jennifer Russo, school psychologist-Kawameeh Middle School, effective January 18, 2023.

**LETTER OF RETIREMENT – WILSON**

Letter of resignation, for the purpose of retirement, from Virginia Wilson, paraprofessional-Connecticut Farms Elementary School, effective January 1, 2023.

**LETTER RESCINDING RESIGNATION – MANDERICCHIO**

Letter rescinding resignation from Stephanie Manderichio, teacher-Jefferson School.

**Superintendent's Report:**

Dr. Taylor stated tonight's spotlight is two groups and their advisors and they are doing special things in way of instructional technology.

Sandra Paul introduced Principal Shaw from Burnet Middle School, Mr. Eric Churus (Esports) and Mr. John Irwin (librarian and in charge of Girls Who Code Program). Burnet has been the champs for the last couple of years in Esports. Regina Shaffer is the vice president of the Garden State Esports League.

Mr. Churus stated technology is taking control of how everything runs and it more than just sitting in office buildings. Our focus is the Esports program – the Burnet Barbarians:

**Competition History and Future:**

- competed in 3 games – Rocket League-4 times State champions
- Super Smash Bros. – ultimate
- Valorant

**New Competitions:**

- Knockout City
- Overwatch 2

Non-player rolls – Esports is not just about playing games. We have begun to add new roles for students to participate through and plan on adding more and collaborating with other clubs in the schools:

- Commentators
- Podcasting

Beyond Middle School – as Esports has risen in popularity it has also started growing in schools and colleges. There are several colleges that offer scholarships for esports players and esports related programs which include:

- Team management
- Content creators
- Financial management
- Game developer

Mr. Irwin stated Girls Who Code – two of our students are here, Sarah and Genesis – they are team leaders. We are a supportive community of girls that teach each other to code; it is student led and learn new coding languages.

Meetings include:

- Sisterhood activities
- Girls Who Code tech spotlights
- Learning to Code using resources on the GWC HQ website
- Time to work on a group project on a topic the girls are passionate about
- This year's project – The Middle School Experience at Burnet Middle School (done in Scratch)

Beyond middle school:

- STEM classes in high school and college
- Girls may choose a STEM career path as a result of being in the club
- Part of the larger Girls Who Code network – access to internships and summer job opportunities with partner companies

Mr. Irwin showed a short video created by the students.

Regina Shaffer stated she is one of the co-founders and vice president of Garden State Esports. We started Esports about three years ago and it flourished. The students during the pandemic were able to talk and chat with video games with their friends. We focus on scholastic Esports. There is more than the competitive side to Esports. We also offer cyber security league. We have more than half of the state signed up with us and it is free. We have three in-person events – programing for parents and we are growing. We are all volunteers and we do the best we can.

Mrs. Paul stated there is a lot of money in scholarships for this program.

Mr. Churus had the students compete against a Board member on a Rocket League game.

They have introduced the challenger league – it is unified style competition for students with special needs paired with general education students.

Ms. McKenzie asked what is the district doing to make Esports a letter varsity sport? Mr. Churus stated we haven’t started the process yet but it is something we would love to see. There are several schools that award varsity letters for Esports. We have a lot of talent from our middle schools going into the high school in the next couple of years. Dr. Taylor made a recommendation to Mrs. Paul to reach out to the Athletic Director, Mr. Zieser, to get the ball rolling.

Ms. Santana stated thank you to the teachers for doing this. Our number one are these children. You are the frontline warriors.

Mrs. Regis-Darby stated thank you to Mrs. Paul for having this on the agenda three years ago.

Dr. Taylor stated thank you to the students and teachers for coming out tonight. He stated our students are amazing – they are smart, athletic, thespians but also coming out of the woodworks as experts on technology and other things. Two of our students were accepted to Princeton University – Ben Duvelson and Misael Rosero and being recognized by the Town Committee and they are also recognizing our high school musical students.

We had students go over to the senior citizens center housing last week – Connor Palestis, Ben Duvelson, and Krystlove Yeboah. They spoke with the seniors and we are going to start a computer technical support program for the senior citizens center.

We have a very strong ROTC program – Cadet Kerns Jean-Baptiste sang the entire Army Song from memory error-free to receive their physical training jacket.

Dr. Taylor gave his State of the School presentation – a summary is below:

Fall Season Sports Report -	Won	Lost	Tied
• Cross Country Boys	3	3	0
• Cross Country Girls	0	4	0
• Gymnastics	7	5	0
• Field Hockey	2	14	0
• Soccer Boys	11	7	1
• Soccer Girls	6	10	0
• Tennis	13	6	0
• Volleyball Girls	11	8	0

Fall Season Sports Report:

- Kayla Bryan – gymnastics - \$10,000 scholarship to Morgan State

- Maria Monteiro and Onyeka Moneme – girls’ soccer – first team all-conference
- Chris Diaz, Justin Thomas, Cristopher Oliveira – boys’ soccer – first team all-conference
- Anabella Farinah – field hockey – first team all division/lead state in saves
- Omar Ibrahim, Elijah Stewart, Kordal Hinton, Zach Menon, Renick Dorilas – football - first team all-conference
- Orlando Guzman, Sean Casey, Cassidy Kidd – all-conference

#### Winter Season Sports Update

- Wrestling – Senior Nick Gonzalez – 1<sup>st</sup> Place (215 lbs); Freshman Aiden Cross – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place (144 lbs), Junior Daniel Coling – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place (190 lbs), Freshman Gabe Hargrove – 5<sup>th</sup> Place (136 lbs)
- Track – 4x400 boys – 1<sup>st</sup> place; 4x400 girls – 2<sup>nd</sup> place
- Boys basketball – 1-0 record
- Boys swimming – 2-1 record
- Girls swimming – 2-0 record

Strategic Plan 2022-2025 Update – year 1 total actions – 30; completed 5; in progress 15; not started 10.

G3.A3: the district will contract the services of a professional who can conduct an “equity audit” of the district’s programs, including those that relate to academic support and district operations.

Standardized Assessment Results – Start Strong reports to parents and guardians on January 9, 2023; NJSLA, Start Strong and iReady report to the Board and community on January 17, 2023. We should try to stop thinking about deficit thinking and focus more to growth thinking. Let’s not harp on learning loss; let’s harp on what we are doing going forward.

#### Enrollment Trends:

- October 2021 – 7,147; October 2022 – 7,330
- October 2021-low-income – 2,859; October 2022 – low-income – 3,559 (up 49%)
- October 2021-limited English proficient – 360; October 2022 – limited English proficient - 382

HIB Report – data since November 22, 2022 – 12 cases – 1 founded, 11 not founded

Mrs. Regis-Darby stated in terms of the 2,859 and turns into 3,559 – does that number make any of our existing schools turn into a Title I school? Dr. Taylor stated no, it did not change the Title I status.

#### Education/Student Discipline Committee Resolutions:

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

E-1A. *Agenda item approved at December 13, 2022 worksession (Affirm Superintendent Determination of HIB – November 16, 2022 to November 22, 2022)*

E-1. *Agenda item reported at December 13, 2022 worksession (Superintendent Report of HIB – November 23, 2022 to December 13, 2022)*

E-1-1. AFFIRM SUPERINTENDENT’S DETERMINATION OF HIB

Affirm the Superintendent’s determination of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) for the period November 23, 2022 to December 13, 2022, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

E-1-1A. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT OF HIB

Superintendent’s Report of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) for the period December 14, 2022 to December 20, 2022, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes (no vote required; for reporting purposes only).

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

Approve E.H., a high school student who is home schooled, to participate in the high school spring sports program.

E-3. APPROVE NJDOE THREE-YEAR PRESCHOOL PROGRAM OPERATIONAL PLAN

Approve the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) Division of Early Childhood Education Services Three-Year Preschool Program Operational Plan (2023-2026), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

E-4. APPROVE UNION HIGH SCHOOL TRIP TO SOUTH KOREA – JULY 2023

Approve Union High School trip to South Korea in July 2023 for students interested, at no cost to the district, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

E-5. *Agenda item approved at December 13, 2022 worksession (Reinstatement of Student to EDP Program)*

DISCUSSION:

None

AYE: Mrs. Brens-Watson, Dr. Francis, Ms. McKenzie, Mrs. Minneci, Mr. O’Shea, Mrs. Regis-Darby, Ms. Santana, Mrs. Scott-Hayden, Mrs. Williams

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. Minneci, for adoption:

## F-1. TREASURER'S REPORT

That the Treasurer's Report dated November 30, 2022 be accepted.

## F-2. SECRETARY'S REPORT

That the Secretary's Report dated November 30, 2022 be accepted.

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

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(a), I certify that as of November 30, 2022 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 November 30, 2022 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 DISTRICT WIDE TRAVEL AND RELATED EXPENSES

Approve district wide 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. *Agenda item approved at December 13, 2022 worksession (Districtwide Student Field Trips).*

## F-8. APPROVE LIST OF 2022-2023 STATE CONTRACT VENDORS

Approve the amended list of the 2022-2023 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
Union High School	46/Key Club	Giving Bean – funds raised to pay for Key Club convention costs	\$2,000.00 (not to exceed)
Union High School	2077/Theatre	Squeek Lights-lighting equipment rental for musical	\$5,670.00
Union High School	2033/Music	Steve Weiss Music – purchase items for marching band	\$7,000.00 (not to exceed)
Union High School	2033/Music	Sweetwater – purchase items for marching band	\$3,500.00 (not to exceed)
Union High School	2033/Music	Harbor Freight – purchase items for marching band	\$1,500.00 (not to exceed)
Union High School	2077/Theatre	Cameron Filepas Lighting Design – lighting design, load-in, hang, focus and technician for High School Musical	\$3,000.00 (not to exceed)
Union High School	2045/Music/UHSPAC	WorldStrides - UHSPAC trip to Washington, DC-UHS in the Heritage Festival	\$80,000.00 (not to exceed)
Union High School	2033/Music	Legends Performing Arts – purchase items for marching band	\$1,100.00
Kawameeh Middle School	41/Musical Production	Music Theatre International – purchase play rights and other materials for spring musical	\$1,232.00
Union High School	2077/Theatre	Audio Inc. – equipment rental and engineer for High School Musical	\$6,988.58

**F-10. APPROVE 2022-2023 OUT-OF-DISTRICT STUDENT PLACEMENT LIST**

Approval be given to amend the 2022-2023 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
Mr. UHS	December 2022 through June 2023	UHS/Senior Class – to raise funds for senior class activities and events
Halfway to Graduation Penny Wards	December 2022 through June 2023	UHS/Senior Class – to raise funds for senior class activities and events
Senior Lawn Signs	December 2022 through June 2023	UHS/Senior Class – to raise funds for senior class activities and events

Senior Class T-Shirt Sale	December 2022 through June 2023	UHS/Senior Class – to raise funds for senior class activities and events
Fashion Show	December 2022 through June 2023	UHS/Senior Class – to raise funds for senior class activities and events
Clothing Sale	December 21, 2022 - January 2, 2023	UHS/Basketball – to raise funds for team activities, dinners, breakfasts, senior night, etc.
Water, Snacks and Candy Sales	December 2022 through June 2023	UHS/Cheerleading – to raise funds to meet team needs for camp, stunt clinic, tumbling classes, future competitions and end of season celebration
Bake Sale	January 3, 2023 through June 2023	UHS/Cheerleading - to raise funds to meet team needs for camp, stunt clinic, tumbling classes, future competitions and end of season celebration
Winter Showcase	December 2022 through January 6, 2023	UHS/Advanced Musical Theatre – to raise funds student directed productions
PBSIS Rewards	December 15, 2022- December 23, 2022	Jefferson/PBSIS – to raise funds for PBSIS rewards (holiday movie and treats)
Snack Sale	February 2023	UHS/Asian Student Alliance – to raise funds for upcoming events
Giving Bean Coffee Fundraiser	December 28, 2022- April 1, 2023	UHS/Key Club – to raise funds for district convention
Talent Show/Dance-A-Thon	December 20, 2022- June 2023 (weekly)	KMS/Student Council – to raise funds for future student council events, apparel and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade dance
Pajama Days/Spirit Week Special Days	December 20, 2022- June 2023 (weekly)	KMS/Student Council – to raise funds for future student council events, apparel and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade dance
Photo Backdrop Pics/Photo Scavenger Hunt	December 20, 2022- June 2023 (weekly)	KMS/Student Council – to raise funds for future student council events, apparel and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade dance
Pretzel/Hot Chocolate Sale	December 20, 2022- June 2023 (weekly)	KMS/Student Council – to raise funds for future student council events, apparel and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade dance
Penny Wars/Guessing Game Jars	December 20, 2022- June 2023 (weekly)	KMS/Student Council – to raise funds for future student council events, apparel and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade dance
Pasta Night/Karaoke Night	December 20, 2022- June 2023 (weekly)	KMS/Student Council – to raise funds for future student council events, apparel and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade dance
Car Wash	December 20, 2022- June 2023 (weekly)	KMS/Student Council – to raise funds for future student council events, apparel and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade dance
GRAMS (Holiday, Candy, Birthday)	December 20, 2022- June 2023 (weekly)	KMS/Student Council – to raise funds for future student council events, apparel and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade dance
Movie Night	December 20, 2022- June 2023 (weekly)	KMS/Student Council – to raise funds for future student council events, apparel and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade dance
Turkey Trot/Cupid Shuffle/Color Run	December 20, 2022- June 2023 (weekly)	KMS/Student Council – to raise funds for future student council events, apparel and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade dance

Bake Sale	December 20, 2022- June 2023 (weekly)	KMS/Student Council – to raise funds for future student council events, apparel and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade dance
Product Sales	12/15/2022- 1/3/2023	BMS/Band/Chorus/Orchestra – to raise funds for High Note Festival trip and competition
Light Up Hallway; Valentines Telegrams, Read-a-Thon, Walk-a-Thon, Flower Petal Pots, Bake Sale, Dress Like Your Favorite Storybook Character	December 1, 2022- June 15, 2023	Washington/Student Counsel – to raise funds for charity-philanthropic causes
School Store	December 20, 2022- June 30, 2023	Washington/Student Council – to raise funds for charity – philanthropic causes
Gatorade Product Sale	December 21, 2022- June 21, 2023	UHS/Student Trainer – to raise funds for student scholarship, supplies, end of year school party
Bake Sales	January 4-May 25, 2023	Jefferson School – to raise funds to offset field trip costs
Coin Wars	January 4-May 25, 2023	Jefferson School – to raise funds to offset field trip costs
Bella Calendar	December 21-31, 2022	Battle Hill – to raise funds for tot lot repairs

#### F-12. ACCEPT DONATIONS

Accept the following donations, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes:

From	For Use By	\$/Item
Shutterfly, LLC	Livingston Elementary School	\$1,745.11
NJ Wrestling Official Association	Union High School Wrestling Club	\$1,000.00
Shutterfly, LLC	Washington Elementary School	\$2,860.88
Shutterfly, LLC	Washington Elementary School	\$1,863.10
Lisa Krauze, Media Specialist-KMS	Kawameeh Middle School	Donation of Books
PEPSICO – PepsiCo Beverage Sales	Union High School	\$406.78

#### F-13. APPROVE PARENT/PUPIL TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT – 2022-2023

Approve parent/pupil transportation contract for special education student attending First Children at the rate of \$20.00 per day (not to exceed \$4,200.00) for the 2022-2023 school year, in accordance with the non-public information appended to the minutes.

#### F-14. ACCEPT GRANT AWARD – MARK SCHONWETTER HOLOCAUST EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Accept the grant award in the amount of \$750.00 from the Mark Schonwetter Holocaust Education Foundation for the 2022-2023 school year (funding to be used to create a Holocaust Resource Lending Library at both middle schools).

**F-15. APPROVE LOBEE LEARNING – INSTRUCTIONAL SESSIONS**

Approve Lobee Learning to perform twenty (20) live virtual instructional sessions (Curiosity Connection) for students participating in the STEM Program at the following schools: (a) Franklin Elementary School and (b) Jefferson School for the 2022-2023 school year; at a cost of \$2,500.00 (paid through ARP ESSER Account extension 19960).

**F-16. APPROVE NEW JERSEY PEDIATRIC FEEDING ASSOCIATES – FEEDING EVALUATIONS**

Approve New Jersey Pediatric Feeding Associates LLC to provide a feeding evaluation at the rate of \$850.00 per evaluation and feeding training at the rate of \$200.00 per student for the 2022-2023 school year (not to exceed \$2,100.00) [Account #11-000-219-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-17. APPROVE NJTIP AT RUTGERS – TRAVEL INSTRUCTIONS**

Approve NJTIP at Rutgers to provide travel instruction (bus-train) per students' IEPs for the 2022-2023 school year (not to exceed \$14,600.00 [Account #11-000-219-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-18. APPROVE LIVING WATER WELL INC. – PARENT ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOPS**

Approve Living Water Well Inc. to coordinate five (5) parent engagement workshops at Union High School for the 2022-2023 school year; total cost - \$1,250.00 [paid through Title I Union High School funds; Account extension #16889], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

*F-19. Agenda item approved at December 13, 2022 worksession (Rate Adjustment-ATC Healthcare Services-LPN Services)*

**F-20. APPROVE INCREASE IN CBI PETTY CASH – BURNET MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Approve the increase in petty cash allotted for costs associated with students' IEP driven Community Based Instruction (CBI) for the 2022-2023 school year to \$1,800.00 at the following school: Burnet Middle School (increase of \$750.00)

**F-21. APPROVE RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR LOCAL RECREATION IMPROVEMENT GRANT**

Approve resolution to apply for the FY2023 Local Recreation Improvement Grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs to be used for the improvement and repair of a school playground within the district, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

*F-22. For informational purposes only – vote not required. List of legal services for the 2022-2023 fiscal year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.*

**F-23. APPROVE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

Approve Settlement Agreement between Y.E. and the Township of Union Board of Education, in connection with the non-public information appended to the minutes.

**DISCUSSION:**

None

**AYE:** Mrs. Brens-Watson, Dr. Francis, Ms. McKenzie, Mrs. Minneci, Mr. O’Shea,  
Mrs. Regis-Darby, Ms. Santana, Mrs. Scott-Hayden, Mrs. Williams

**NAY:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Operations Committee Resolutions:**

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following resolutions were moved by Mrs. Minneci, seconded by Ms. McKenzie 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 bus evacuation reports for the 2022-2023 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**O-2. REPORT ON OFFICIAL REPORT OF ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION**

Report on the Official Report of the annual school election held on November 8, 2022 as follows (*report only, no vote required*):

Three-year term:	Mary Lynn Williams	6,101
	Nancy Minneci	5,850
	Dicxiana Carbonell	5,538
	Ronnie McDowell	4,545
	Guy A. Francis	4,537
	April Y. Carter	4,246
	Grisel Morales	1,894
	Write-in	101

**DISCUSSION:**

Dr. Francis stated congratulations.

**AYE:** Mrs. Brens-Watson, Dr. Francis, Ms. McKenzie, Mrs. Minneci, Mr. O’Shea,  
Mrs. Regis-Darby, Ms. Santana, Mrs. Scott-Hayden, Mrs. Williams

**NAY:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Personnel Committee Resolutions:**

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following resolutions were moved by Ms. McKenzie, seconded by Mrs. Brens-Watson for adoption:

**P-1A.** *Agenda item approved at December 13, 2022 worksession (Personnel Actions-New Hires)*

**P-1A-1. 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 2022-2023 school year in accordance with the information in the hands of each Board.

Name	Position	Rate
Iberca Jimenez	Substitute custodian	\$16.00/hr.

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

Accept letters of resignation/retirement from the following staff:

Name	Position	Location	Eff. Date	Reason	<b>Resignations/Retirements approvals are subject to contractual notice to be given accordingly.</b>
Elise Antoine	Paraprofessional	Hannah Caldwell	12/12/2022	Resignation	
Kristen Carrero	Teacher	Hannah Caldwell	1/1/2023	Retirement	
Atiya Colman	Bus Driver	Transp. Dept	11/15/2022	Resignation	
Laura Detjen	French teacher	UHS	3/1/2023	Retirement	
Jennifer Russo	School psychologist	KMS	1/18/2023	Resignation	
Virginia Wilson	Paraprofessional	Connecticut Farms	1/1/2023	Retirement	
Stephanie Manderichio	Teacher	Jefferson		Rescinding Resignation	Resignation approved 10/18/22

**P-4. APPROVE LEAVES**

Approve leaves for the following staff:

Name	Position	Location	Leave Dates	Leave Type	Notes
Susan Tobin	Teacher	Washington	10/11/2022-12/4/2022	Paid medical leave	

Sara McCulloh	CST	UHS	11/4/2022-12/22/2022	Paid medical leave	
Christine Zurka	Paraprofessional	Battle Hill	11/18/2022-5/17/2023	Intermittent leave	
Lisa Erickson	Teacher	Battle Hill	12/5/2022-6/30/2023	Intermittent leave	
Antonella Melchionna	P/T accountant	Business Office	11/7/2022-1/13/2023	Extension of paid medical leave	
Maria Sibia	Teacher	Livingston	1/23/2023-5/14/2023 return date 5/15/2022	Paid child rearing leave followed by unpaid FMLA/ NJFLA (concurrently)	
Nicole Nickels	Preschool instructional coach	Districtwide	5/1/2022-6/20/23 Return date 9/1/2023	Paid child rearing leave followed by unpaid FMLA/ NJFLA (concurrently)	
Jessica Mendes Oliveira	Teacher	Franklin	New return date 1/25/2023	Extension of unpaid FMLA leave	
Jamie Gunderson	Teacher	Connecticut Farms	New return date 9/1/2023	Extension of unpaid leave	
Christina Lam	Teacher	Connecticut Farms	11/28/2022-5/2/2022 return date 5/3/2023	Unpaid leave followed by paid child rearing leave followed by unpaid FMLA/NJFLA (concurrently)	
Judy Supino	Teacher	Battle Hill	11/29/2022-6/30/2023	Intermittent leave	
Shaunte Ames Veloz	Teacher	Kawameeh	1/17/2023-5/29/2023 return date 5/30/2023	Paid child rearing leave followed by unpaid FMLA/ NJFLA (concurrently)	
Regina Blasi	Teacher	Connecticut Farms	New return date 4/3/2023	Extension of unpaid leave	
Maritza Mieses	Teacher	UHS	12/7/2022-1/12/2023 Return date 1/13/2023	Paid leave followed by unpaid leave	
Lisa Damjanovi	Teacher	Kawameeh	11/22/2022-12/23/2022 Return date 1/3/2023	Paid medical leave	
Anisah Haqq Muhammad	Media specialist	Franklin	11/16/2022-12/5/2022	Paid FMLA leave	

Leslie Nigro	Teacher	Jefferson	12/7/2022- 1/18/2023	Paid medical leave	
Patricia Weber	Teacher	Battle Hill	10/11/2022- 6/30/2023	Intermittent Leave	

**P-5. APPROVE STUDENT TEACHERS AND INTERNSHIPS**

Approve student teachers and internships for the 2022-2023 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**DISCUSSION:**

None

**AYE:** Mrs. Brens-Watson, Dr. Francis, Ms. McKenzie, Mrs. Minneci, Mr. O'Shea, Mrs. Regis-Darby, Ms. Santana, Mrs. Scott-Hayden, Mrs. Williams

**NAY:** None

**ABSTAIN:** Mrs. Minneci (P-1B-12)

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Residency Committee Resolutions:**

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

**R-1. APPROVE LIST OF STUDENTS REMOVED FROM ROLLS**

Approval be given to amend the list of students removed from the rolls [four (4) students exited the month of November 2022 (3 from elementary and 1 from secondary) or a total of fourteen (14) students for the 2022-2023 school year] who are not domiciled in this school district, in accordance with the non-public information appended to the minutes.

**R-2. APPROVE TO REMOVE STUDENT**

Approval to remove student #318237 from the attendance rolls as the student has been determined to be ineligible to attend the Township of Union Public Schools as a resident student.

**R-3. APPROVE TO REMOVE STUDENT**

Approval to remove student #330807 from the attendance rolls as the student has been determined to be ineligible to attend the Township of Union Public Schools as a resident student.

**R-4. APPROVE TO REMOVE STUDENT**

Approval to remove student #320819 from the attendance rolls as the student has been determined to be ineligible to attend the Township of Union Public Schools as a resident student.

**R-5. APPROVE TO REMOVE STUDENT**

Approval to remove student #290340 from the attendance rolls as the student has been determined to be ineligible to attend the Township of Union Public Schools as a resident student.

**DISCUSSION:**

None

AYE: Mrs. Brens-Watson, Dr. Francis, Ms. McKenzie, Mrs. Minneci, Mr. O’Shea,  
Mrs. Regis-Darby, Ms. Santana, Mrs. Scott-Hayden, Mrs. Williams

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

#### Technology Committee:

Mrs. Brens-Watson stated there are no updates other than from the worksession and she would like to acknowledge Mrs. Paul and the work that she and her team are doing. The work they are doing behind the scenes is amazing – taking care of all of our technology needs in the district. They are looking at innovative ways to assist our students and deliver instruction.

#### Approval of Bills:

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and moved by Mrs. Brens-Watson, seconded by Ms. McKenzie, 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, Dr. Francis, Ms. McKenzie, Mrs. Minneci, Mr. O’Shea,  
Mrs. Regis-Darby, Ms. Santana, Mrs. Scott-Hayden, Mrs. Williams

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Ms. McKenzie (P.O. 23 -02128)

MOTION CARRIED

#### Unfinished Business:

Mrs. Regis-Darby stated Dr. Francis, thank you for your service for over the past eight years. You have been giving back to the community and students in Union. You have been a rebel; you have asked questions that sometimes didn’t seem to be the right question that needed to be asked but it needed to be asked. The students and parents appreciate your service. I appreciate the work that you have done for the community. Thank you so much and I appreciate you.

Mrs. Minneci stated I appreciate all the time you have given to the school district and community. We are all here for the same reason – the kids and appreciate all the hard work. Thank you very much.

Mr. O’Shea stated thank you for leaving me; we have bumped heads but do understand your passion and a lot of it we agree on.

Mrs. Brens-Watson stated congratulations to the return Board members and to our new Board member. Dr. Francis, I will miss you. Thank you for asking the hard questions and keeping us on our toes. I admire that you have been so committed to this district, the students and the community. No one can take that away from you – you are dedicated and committed to the wellbeing of our students. I thank you for that.

Ms. McKenzie stated I will miss you on this Board and I look forward to you challenging us from the audience. It has been a pleasure serving with you this year.

Mrs. Scott-Hayden stated we have had conversations about our true authenticity and our intent which was students. We are here for the same purpose. I admire your passion for doing this for eight years. It takes a true amount of dedication and courage to sit in that seat for eight years. It is a thankless job. I wish you well. We will miss you and you will be missed on this board.

Mrs. Williams stated we have had an interesting relationship since you have been on this board. Talking with you at Jefferson, your passion and love for this district came through and we connected. I had a real opportunity to get to know you and understand you and appreciate all the work you have put into this district. You have been a tremendous asset to the board. We have been able to agree to disagree. I will miss you, your passion and challenging the status quo. I'm glad we were able to connect this year. We have accomplished a lot as a Board. I am proud of each and every person on here. We worked together. The Board you saw in public was the Board that was in executive session. It wasn't disrespectful, it was focused and a tremendous amount of commitment. We realized we were all there for the same reason. I'm proud of each and every one of you and all the work we got done.

Ms. Santana stated you consistently went on your own and you changed a lot. I look up to you for your passion and dedication. You make me want to be a better board member. We have sat on the same side of the table and opposite sides of the table on a lot of things. I look forward to the work we are going to do moving forward. You have consistently tried to change this district for the better of our children and educators. I appreciate the eight years you and your family have given up.

Dr. Francis stated thank you to all my fellow Board members regarding my service on the board. I'm finishing up my 9<sup>th</sup> year and today is my last day. I want to apologize to you Mary Lynn, in public, I did sometimes act wrong. I have apologized to you in person to say that I make mistakes and I'm not perfect and I apologize. Thank you Yocasta for keeping me in check behind the scenes. This was probably my best year as a board member. I want to thank Kim, Marissa, Chastity for their services this past year. It was a pleasure working with you. I didn't know what to expect. Kim, you show your dedication on how you speak; Marissa, you are on point and very impressed. John, you have been dedicated to finance and hold the district accountable. It was a pleasure working with you Mr. Buggy. Yolanda Koon, I want to say you are a tremendous asset to our district. I wish my fellow board members would recognize what you have done over the last two years. It has been more than I have seen over the last nine years. Diane, I want to thank you for keeping me on top of everything, from my ethics paperwork, and everything you have done for the district. To the administration, Dr. Taylor, I want to wish you well and the best going forward. Gerry, the same and Gretel thank you for what you do for the district. I just want to make sure we are doing everything for our kids. I knew my kids would do well even in the worst district because they have two parents that care and are on top of them. I always wanted to represent the other kids that don't have the same support at home; that has

always been my goal. If I offended anyone on this board, I apologize. I want to wish you luck going forward.

#### New Business:

Mrs. Brens-Watson stated I want to congratulate all of the students and their families in the district at Burnet, Kawameeh and the high school that were inducted into the National Honor Society. There were 28 kids from Kawameeh, I don't know how many kids from Burnet but about 90+ were inducted this past week and that was up from 70 last year. Our kids are amazing and they do all the work and being great students and they have their families there to support them. It is truly a testament to the faculty in our district and their dedication to our children and teaching them. I want to thank them for that.

I want to congratulate the high school for an amazing musical and show. I want to thank Ms. Siino at Burnet Middle School, who is doing amazing work with the choir at Kawameeh. I want to congratulate Ms. Arietta at Kawameeh, she was named teacher of the year. Great things happening in our district. I don't have all the names of the teachers of the year for all of our schools. We are not recognizing our faculty on this board. We need to make a commitment to having that information ahead of time so we can acknowledge these people. They work hard for our kids. We celebrate kids going to Princeton. I want to thank the teachers for their work and I hope in the new year, we will make an actual effort to have those individuals here and recognize them publicly.

#### Comments from the Public:

Jill Hall stated I wanted to thank the Farmer fans, an organization from the high school filled with some of our best and brightest students, for the work they have done over the holiday season. They started with Thanksgiving and put basket outs for members of the community that might have gone without. They spent time last week wrapping all of the gifts that they purchased for families within the district and they distributed this week for some of our families that we sometimes forget. We take things for granted over the holiday season. I was fortunate enough to deliver one of the packages to one of the families – I watched the kids and their enthusiasm. It is really who we are as a school community so I wanted to give a shout out to Mrs. Bobertz and her crew of Farmer fans for what they did. Thank you, Dr. Francis, for your time served on the board. You said what needed to be said and thank you to your family because time here was time away from them. You can't do it without the support of your family. Your wife always volunteers on the PTA and how much you have given to the community over the years – it is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your service and happy holidays, enjoy your family.

Paul Casey stated congratulations to the incoming new board members and returning board members. I want to thank Dr. Francis and Melissa for their commitment. Two words that describe Dr. Francis is courage and dedication. You had the courage to say things and dedication to go back and say it again. It speaks volumes about you. Thank you Yocasta for mentioning the amazing things that are happening at our schools and recognizing those things.

MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Moved by Mrs. Brens-Watson, seconded by Mrs. Minneci, that the Board go into Executive Session at 8:08 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; litigation 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, Dr. Francis, Ms. McKenzie, Mrs. Minneci, Mr. O’Shea,  
Mrs. Regis-Darby, Ms. Santana, Mrs. Scott-Hayden, Mrs. Williams

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

The Board returned to public session at 9:10 p.m.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the Board in public session it was moved by Mrs. Williams, seconded by Mrs. Minneci, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

All present voting YES

MOTION CARRIED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

*Yolanda Koon*

YOLANDA KOON  
BOARD SECRETARY

