

TOWNSHIP OF UNION BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – June 25, 2024

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, June 25 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the Union High School Library, 2350 North Third Street, Union, New Jersey pursuant to notice sent to each member.

Ms. Santana called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:

Ms. Dixiana Carbonell, Mrs. Elsie Conteh-Mackey, Mr. Ronnie McDowell, Mr. Greg Nasta, Ms. Chastity Santana

ABSENT AT ROLL CALL:

Mr. Michael Cohan (via Zoom 6:09 p.m.), Mrs. Nancy Minneci (via Zoom 6:09 p.m.), Mrs. Scott-Hayden (via Zoom 6:09 p.m.), Mrs. Mary Lynn Williams

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Dr. Gerald Benaquista, Mrs. Yolanda Koon

ALSO PRESENT:

Mr. Lester Taylor, Esq.

Ms. Brunsmeayers' preK class led the Board and audience members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Carbonell 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; a copy of which is on file in the office of the Board Secretary.

MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Moved by Mr. McDowell, seconded by Mrs. Conteh-Mackey, that the Board go into Executive Session at 6:04 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: Ms. Carbonell, Mrs. Conteh-Mackey, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Nasta, Ms. Santana

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

The Board returned to the public at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Moved by Mrs. Conteh-Mackey, seconded by Ms. Carbonell, the following minutes for adoption:

- 1. May 4, 2024 – special meeting/realignment
- 2. May 14, 2024 – worksession
- 3. May 14, 2024 – executive session
- 4. May 21, 2024 – regular meeting
- 5. May 21, 2024 – executive session

DISCUSSION:

None

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Communications:

REQUEST FROM TOWNSHIP OF UNION – DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Request from the Township of Union – Department of Public Safety for the use of two (2) district school buses and two (2) drivers on July 10, 2024 to transport the participants of the 2024 Junior Police Academy Program to a tentative destination in Point Pleasant, New Jersey.

REQUEST FROM FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VAUXHALL REQUESTING USE OF JEFFERSON SCHOOL PARKING LOT

Request from the First Baptist Church of Vauxhall to use Jefferson School parking lot for an outdoor worship service on July 21, 2024 (8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.).

REQUEST FROM TOWNSHIP RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Letter from the Township of Union Recreation Department requesting the use of a Board of Education bus and driver for the following trips: (a) June 8, 2024, July 5, 2024, July 12, 2024, July 19, 2024, July 26, 2024, August 2, 2024 – Union Elks Pool, (b) July 1, 2024 – Kenilworth (Career Day Trip), (c) July 11, 2024 – Linden (Bowling Trip) and (d) August 1, 2024 – Union Sports Arena (ice skating trip).

LETTER OF RESIGNATION – GRASSO

Letter of resignation from Louis Grasso, health and physical education teacher-Union High School, effective July 1, 2024.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION CORRECTION – McCUSKER

Correction to letter of resignation from Susan McCusker, special education teacher – Connecticut Farms Elementary School, effective July 1, 2024.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION – ROBERSON

Letter of resignation from Donald Roberson, groundsman-Buildings and Grounds Department, effective June 1, 2024.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION – SCHWAB

Letter of resignation from Raymond Schwab, visual and performing arts (music) teacher-Hannah Caldwell Elementary School, effective May 8, 2024.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION – SVETVILAS

Letter of resignation from Narisa Svetvilas, school counselor-Union High School, effective July 1, 2024.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE UPDATE – RICHARDONE

Request for leave update from Nicole Richardone, math teacher-Union High School, new return date September 1, 2025.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE – DECKER

Request for paid FMLA leave from Sonia Decker, ESL teacher-Burnet Middle School, May 13, 2024-May 13, 2025.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE – JONES

Request for unpaid FMLA leave from Coree Jones, custodian-Union High School, March 20, 2024-June 1, 2024.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE – SCARPATI

Request for unpaid FMLA from Christopher Scarpati, math teacher-Burnet Middle School, September 9, 2024-November 29, 2024.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE UPDATE – MILLS

Request for leave update from Debra Mills, resource room teacher-Washington Elementary School, new return date January 2, 2025.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE – McGUIRE

Request for paid FMLA/NJFLA followed by unpaid FMLA from Nicole McGuire, special education teacher-Battle Hill Elementary School, May 28, 2024-June 20, 2024.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE – DOCKERY

Request for FMLA/NJFLA leave from Eboni Dockery, second grade teacher-Franklin Elementary School, May 30, 2024-June 20, 2024.

REQUEST FOR INTERMITTENT LEAVE – ASHRAF

Request for intermittent FMLA from Lisa Ashraf, school counselor-Kawameeh Middle School, March 20, 2024-March 20, 2025.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE UPDATE – VOLTURO

Request for leave update from Rose Volturo, math teacher-Kawameeh Middle School, June 7, 2024-June 20, 2024.

Comments from Public (on resolutions):

Mrs. Koon read a letter, dated June 13, 2024, from NJASL. A copy of the letter is appended to the minutes.

Mr. Taylor informed the community to be mindful of personnel and privacy rights. You may be liable by your comments. Please be respectful.

Virginia Jeffries stated OPMA guarantees the right of the public to speak without interruptions. She also stated that on June 11, 2024, the Board President interrupted and suppressed her comments. She also came to East Orange and expressed her support for Ms. McKenzie.

Mr. Taylor stated the presiding Board President does have the right to warn and interrupt the speaker if it is obscene or defamatory.

Jill Hall stated that Policy 2411 – should read “school counselor” not “guidance counselor”.

Superintendent’s Report:

Mr. Benaquista played Kathleen Brunsmeiers pre-k class flag salute for the community and presented his Superintendent Report as follows (presentation appended to the minutes):

Employee recognition – July meeting.

Thank you to Brandon Tyrik – a former UHS student who used UHS for his music video. His music video “NO REGRETS” was played.

Farmers Frontline – What’s Up with TUPS? Senior Edition – appended to minutes.

Union Township Education Foundation award of grants to district teachers:

- Alissa Popo and Suzanne Licks -Livingston Elementary School
- Jessica Borman and Nikki Dowling – Kawameeh Middle School
- Jha-Lon Motley – Hannah Caldwell Elementary School

- Lisa Raimo – Kawameeh Middle School
- Mary Ellen Patricco – Connecticut Farms Elementary School
- Maria Sibilila – Livingston Elementary School
- Cara Moore – Livingston Elementary School
- Nikki Kelly, Danielle Stabler, Jessica Borman, Nicole Osborne, Deana Buchanan, Peter Leone, Lisa Raimo, Kathrn Stern, Adriana Palmucci, Shaunte Veloz, Lisa Krause – Kawameeh Middle School

NJDOE seal of literacy – is an award given by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) in recognition of students who have studied and attained proficiency in at least one language in addition to English by high school graduation:

- Omar Amaro
- Oseka Balogun
- Mariana Buitrago Valencia
- Helen Burbano
- Hailie Garcia
- Katherine Ruth Herrera Limpias
- Julia Lima
- Jasmine Martinez
- Abigail Naranjo
- Samuel Ortiz
- Jeremy Rosero
- Carlos Andres Vera Hidalgo
- Sthecy Vincent

Juneteenth – in New Jersey, Juneteenth is observed as a State and public holiday on the third Friday in June - observed June 21, 2024. The Federal holiday is celebrated annually on June 19th to commemorate the ending of slavery in the United States.

Districtwide activities –there will be morning announcements, classroom lessons, videos, presentations and discussions.

HIB Report: June 11-June 25, 2024-Reported – 6 founded/3 not founded/1 inconclusive;
May 22-June 11, 2024-Affirmed – 7 founded/4 not founded/5 inconclusive

NJDOE – School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act for 2022-2023 was presented by Dr. Benaquista. A summary is below and the School Self-Assessment is appended to the minutes.

NJDOE assigns grades to every school district and individual schools as required by the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act. The information was released to the public in May of each year. The school grade is a raw score of data and the sum of ratings for all indicators within each core element on the school self-assessment. The maximum total score for a school is 78 points.

The school district's 2022-2023 HIB grade was 71 points (an average of the total scores for all schools in the district).

- Battle Hill Elementary School – 73
- Burnet Middle School – 75
- Connecticut Farms Elementary School – 62
- Franklin Elementary School – 70
- Hannah Caldwell Elementary School – 72
- Jefferson Elementary School – 69
- Kawameeh Middle School – 76
- Livingston Elementary School – 72
- Union High School – 72
- Washington Elementary School - 71

TUPS Student Liaisons – Neissa Filias and Gia Patel – thank you for your dedication and monthly reporting to the Board of Education and community.

Ms. Santana congratulated the 2024 graduates.

Ms. Carbonell congratulated the 2024 graduates; it was special to be there and what we do is for the benefit of the students and community.

Dr. Benaquista informed the community that a RIF is a reduction in workforce. There were no RIFs or cuts.

Education/Student Discipline Committee Resolutions:

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

E-1. *Agenda item reported at June 11, 2024 worksession (Superintendent Report of HIB-May 22-June 11, 2024).*

E-1A. *Agenda item approved at June 11, 2024 worksession (Superintendent's Determination of HIB-May 15-21, 2024).*

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

Superintendent's Report of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) for the period June 11 to June 25, 2024, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes (*no vote required; for reporting purposes only*).

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

Affirm the Superintendent's determination of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) for the periods May 22, 2024 to June 11, 2024, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

E-2. APPROVE NJSIAA MEMBERSHIP AND DAANJ MEMBERSHIP

Approve the membership and dues for the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) (\$2,500.00) and Directors of Athletics Association of New Jersey (DAANJ) (\$200.00) for Union High School Athletic Department for the 2024-2025 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

E-3. APPROVE LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM PLAN

Approve Language Instruction Educational Program Plan for school years 2024-2027, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

E-4. APPROVE COMPREHENSIVE EQUITY PLAN

Approve the 2024 Comprehensive Equity Plan from the Township of Union Public Schools for submission to the New Jersey Department of Education, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

E-5. APPROVE ACCEPTANCE OF THE ANNUAL SCHOOL PLAN

Approve acceptance of the Annual School Plan for the 2024-2025 school year for: (a) Union High School, (b) Burnet Middle School, (c) Hannah Caldwell Elementary School, (d) Jefferson School and (e) Franklin Elementary School.

E-6. APPROVE ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDING FROM AR-HCY II CONSORTIUM

Approve acceptance of funding in the amount of \$27,736.00 from the AR-HCY II Consortium to reimburse for McKinney Vento student transportation.

E-7. APPROVE ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDING – SCHOOL BASED MENTAL HEALTH GRANT AWARD

Approve acceptance of funding in the amount of \$60,000.00 for the 2024-2025 school year within the School Based Mental Health Grant Award, in accordance with the information available to the Board members.

E-8. APPROVE SCHOOL BASED MENTAL HEALTH GRANT AFFILIATION AGREEMENT – KEAN UNIVERSITY

Approve the School Based Mental Health Grant Affiliation Agreement with Kean University that allows three (3) externs to continue working within the district for the fall 2024 semester, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

E-9. *Agenda item approved at June 11, 2024 worksession (Rider for Public School Service Contract).*

E-10. APPROVE UPDATED SCHOOL CALENDAR – 2024-2025

Approve the updated 2024-2025 school calendar, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

E-11. *Agenda item approved at June 11, 2024 worksession (Reinstatement of Student #240567).*

E-12. *Agenda item approved at June 11, 2024 worksession (Reinstatement of Student #256501).*

DISCUSSION:

None

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Fiscal and Planning Committee Resolutions:

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

F-1. TREASURER’S REPORT

That the Treasurer’s Report dated May 31, 2024 be accepted.

F-2. SECRETARY’S REPORT

That the Secretary’s Report dated May31, 2024 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 May 31, 2024 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 May 31, 2024 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. LIST OF CONTRACTS/PURCHASE ORDERS – none at this time

F-6. DISTRICT WIDE TRAVEL AND RELATED EXPENSES – none at this time

F-7. Agenda item approved at June 11, 2024 worksession (student field trips).

F-7A. APPROVE DISTRICTWIDE STUDENT FIELD TRIPS

Approve districtwide student field trip destinations and purposes pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.8, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-8. APPROVE LIST OF 2023-2024 STATE CONTRACT APPROVED VENDORS

Approve the amended list of the 2023-2024 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
Livingston Elementary School	2012/Main Office	Liberty Science Center – 2 nd grade field trip	\$2,528.50
Union High School	3340/Athletics	BSN Sports – girls softball team jackets	\$2,500.00 (not to exceed)
Washington Elementary School	2003	Turtle Back Zoo – kindergarten field trip	\$1,000.00
Union High School	2140/Athletics	NJSIAA – estimate for NJSIAA Track Sectionals	\$1,229.00 (not to exceed)
Union High School	2033/Marching Band	G2Performance – marching band uniform parts	\$4,365.75

F-9B. APPROVE FUNDRAISERS

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

Event Name	Date	Purpose
Car Wash	September 1, 2024-August 31, 2025-dates TBD	UHS/Marching Band – to raise funds for competitive season
Calendar Fundraiser	September 1, 2024-August 31, 2025-dates TBD	UHS/Marching Band – to raise funds to offset costs of competitive season
Bake Sale/Candy Sale	September 1, 2024-August 31, 2025-dates TBD	UHS/Marching Band – to raise funds for competitive season
Car Wash	June 1, 2024-August 31, 2024	UHS/Cheerleading – to raise funds for cheer camp, tumbling classes, senior night, new uniforms, new pom poms, new cheer gear

F-9C. ACCEPT DONATIONS

Accept the following donations:

From	For Use By	\$/Item
Shutterfly, LLC	Connecticut Farms Elementary School	\$516.67

Shutterfly, LLC	Livingston Elementary School	\$788.57
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F-10A. APPROVE 2023-2024 OUT-OF-DISTRICT STUDENT PLACEMENT LIST

Approval be given to amend the 2023-2024 out-of-district student placement list (month of June), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-10B. APPROVE 2024-2025 OUT-OF-DISTRICT STUDENT PLACEMENT LIST

Approval be given to amend the 2024-2025 out-of-district student placement list (month of June), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-11. APPROVE CHIEF MEDICAL INSPECTOR – BHARATI MULLICK, M.D.

Approve Bharati Mullick, M.D., as Chief Medical Inspector pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-1 for the 2024-2025 school year at an annual fee of \$33,000.00, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-12. APPROVE TEAM PHYSICIAN – KENNETH GIRVAN SWAN JR., M.D.

Approve Kenneth Girvan Swan Jr., M.D., as the Team School Physician for athletics for the 2024-2025 school year at an annual rate of \$4,250.00.

F-13. APPROVE NJDOE UNIFORM MINIMUM CHART OF ACCOUNTS

Approve the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) Uniform Minimum Chart Accounts for New Jersey public schools as per N.J.A.C. 6A:23A for the 2024-2025 school year.

F-14. APPROVE PURCHASING MANUAL

Approve the 2024-2025 Purchasing Manual, in accordance with the information in the hands of each Board member.

F-15. APPROVE PAYMENT SCHEDULE FOR 2024-2025 TAX LEVY

Approve payment schedule for the 2024-2025 Tax Levy, in accordance with the information in the hands of each Board member.

F-16-A. APPROVE TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO CAPITAL RESERVE

It is recommended that the Board approve the following resolution to transfer of funds to capital reserve:

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:21-2 and N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-13 permit a Board of Education to establish certain reserve accounts; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned statutes authorize procedures under the authority of the Commissioner of Education which permit a board of education to transfer excess revenue or unexpended appropriations into reserve accounts during the month of June; and

WHEREAS, the Union Board of Education has determined that an amount up to \$2,000,000.00 may be available for such purpose of transfer;

NOW BE IT RESOLVED by the Union Board of Education that it does authorize the transfer in an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000.00 to the Capital Reserve Account established by this Board as per statute and administrative code for the purposes thereof.

F-16-B. APPROVE TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO MAINTENANCE RESERVE

It is recommended that the Board approve the following resolution to transfer of funds to maintenance reserve:

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:21-2 and N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-13 permit a Board of Education to establish certain reserve accounts; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned statutes authorize procedures under the authority of the Commissioner of Education which permit a board of education to transfer excess revenue or unexpended appropriations into reserve accounts during the month of June; and

WHEREAS, the Union Board of Education has determined that an amount up to \$500,000.00 may be available for such purpose of transfer;

NOW BE IT RESOLVED by the Union Board of Education that it does authorize the transfer in an amount not to exceed \$500,000.00 to the Maintenance Reserve Account established by this Board as per statute and administrative code for the purposes thereof.

F-16-C. APPROVE TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO EMERGENCY RESERVE

It is recommended that the Board approve the following resolution to transfer of funds to emergency reserve:

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:21-2 and N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-13 permit a Board of Education to establish certain reserve accounts; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned statutes authorize procedures under the authority of the Commissioner of Education which permit a board of education to transfer excess revenue or unexpended appropriations into reserve accounts during the month of June; and

WHEREAS, the Union Board of Education has determined that an amount up to \$100,000.00 may be available for such purpose of transfer;

NOW BE IT RESOLVED by the Union Board of Education that it does authorize the transfer in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00 to the Emergency Reserve Account established by this Board as per statute and administrative code for the purposes thereof.

F-17. APPROVE AGREEMENT FOR NONPUBLIC CHAPTERS 192-193 SERVICES – UCESC

Approve Agreement for Nonpublic – Public Law 1977 Chapters 192-193 Services with the Union County Education Services Commission (UCESC) for the 2024-2025 school year, in accordance with the information in the hands of each Board member.

F-18. APPROVE AGREEMENT FOR NONPUBLIC EQUITABLE IDEA SERVICES – UCESC

Approve Resolution and Agreement for Nonpublic School Equitable IDEA Services with the Union County Education Services Commission (UCESC) for the 2024-2025 school year, in accordance with the information in the hands of each Board member.

F-19. APPROVE AGREEMENT FOR NONPUBLIC CHAPTER 226 NURSING SERVICES – UCESC

Approve Resolution and Agreement for Chapter 226 Nonpublic School Nursing Services with the Union County Educational Services Commission (UCESC) for the 2024-2025 school year, in accordance with the information in the hands of each Board member.

F-20. APPROVE AGREEMENT FOR NONPUBLIC SECURITY AID PROGRAM – UCESC
Approve Resolution and Agreement for the New Jersey Nonpublic Security Aid Program with the Union County Educational Services Commission (UCESC) for the 2024-2025 school year, in accordance with the information in the hands of each Board member.

F-21. APPROVE AGREEMENT FOR NONPUBLIC SCHOOL TEXTBOOKS – UCESC
Approve Resolution and Agreement for the New Jersey Nonpublic School Textbooks with the Union County Educational Services commission for the 2024-2025 school year, in accordance with the information in the hands of each Board member.

F-22. APPROVE AGREEMENT FOR NONPUBLIC TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE PROGRAM – UCESC
Approve Resolution and Agreement for New Jersey Nonpublic Technology Initiative Program with the Union County Educational Services for the 2024-2025 school year, in accordance with the information in the hands of each Board member.

F-23. APPROVE AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES – UCESC
Approve Agreement for Professional Services with the Union County Educational Services Commission for the 2024-2025 school year, in accordance with the information in the hands of each Board member.

F-24. APPROVE COMMUNITY BASED INSTRUCTION SITE AND STRUCTURED LEARNING EXPERIENCES
Approve Community Based Instruction Site (CBI) and Structured Learning Experiences (SLE)/Work Based Learning for the 2024-2025 school year as follows: (a) Reggio Pizzeria, (b) Stop & Shop Supermarket, (c) Kean University Food Services, (d) Union High School Cafeteria (administered by Pomptonia Food Services), (e) ShopRite, (f) YMCA, (g) school based CBI/WBL at Union High School, (h) school based CBI at Burnet Middle School and (i) school based CBI at Kawameeh Middle School, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-25. APPROVE ATC HEALTHCARE SERVICES – NURSING
Approve ATC (Around the Clock) Healthcare Services Inc. to provide nursing services at the rate of \$88.00/hr. – RN-CSN and \$68.00/hr. – RN non-CSN, and \$57.50 /hr. for LPN (not to exceed \$390,000.00) for the 2024-2025 school year [Account Fund #11-000-216-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-26. APPROVE LEARNWELL – BEDSIDE INSTRUCTION
Approve teachers employed through LearnWell to provide bedside instruction for district students on an “as needed” basis for the 2024-2025 school year (not to exceed \$10,000.00) [Account Fund #7693-11-150-100-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-27. APPROVE ST. CLARE’S HOSPITAL – BEDSIDE INSTRUCTION
Approve teachers employed through St. Clare’s Hospital to provide bedside instruction for district students on an “as needed” basis for the 2024-2025 school year (not to exceed

\$1,000.00) [Account Fund #7693-11-150-100-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-28. APPROVE SILVERGATE – BEDSIDE INSTRUCTION

Approve teachers employed through Silvergate to provide bedside instruction for district students on an “as needed” basis for the 2024-2025 school year (not to exceed \$10,000.00) [Account Fund #7693-11-150-100-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-29. APPROVE POSITIVE PATHWAYS BEHAVIOR SERVICES – HOME INSTRUCTION

Approve teachers employed through Positive Pathways Behavior Services, LLC to provide home instruction for district students on an “as needed” basis for the 2024-2025 school year (not to exceed \$6,000.00) [Account Fund #7693-11-150-100-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-30. APPROVE MORRIS UNION JOINTURE COMMISSION

Approve Morris Union Jointure Commission to provide: (a) physical therapy - \$227/hr., (b) occupational therapy - \$206.00/hr., (c) speech therapy-\$242.00/hr., (d) personal aides for ESY - \$7,797.00 each and (e) personal aides-10 months- \$76,445.00 each for the 2024-2025 school year (not to exceed \$460,000.00) [Account Fund #11-000-216-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-31. APPROVE NORTH JERSEY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

Approve North Jersey Behavioral Health Services (dba The Capstone Center) to provide applied behavior analysis services to a district student in accordance with the approved Settlement Agreement for the 2024-2025 school year (not to exceed \$253,200.00) [Account Fund #11-000-216-320-01-19], in accordance with the non-public information appended to the minutes.

F-32. APPROVE VISION BENEFITS

Approve VSP - vision benefits for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

F-33. *For informational purposes only – vote not required.* List of legal services for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-34. APPROVE ESS NORTHEAST, LLC

Approve ESS Northeast, LLC to provide educational staffing services (substitutes/paraprofessionals) at the request of the district for the 2024-2025 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-35. APPROVE OUR HOUSE – COMMUNITY-BASED EMPLOYMENT – 2024 ESY

Approve Our House, Incl to provide community-based employment services to district students during the 2024- ESY in an amount not to exceed \$11,000.00 [Account Fund #11-000-216-320-01-19/7043], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-36. APPROVE SUBMISSION OF SFY 2025- IDEA-B GRANT APPLICATION

Approve the submission of the SFY 2025 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act-B (IDEA-B) grant application to the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE).

DISCUSSION:

None

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Operations Committee Resolutions:

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

O-1. APPROVE SECURITY DRILL/BUS EVACUATION REPORTS

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:41-1 and P.L. 2009, Chapter 178, approve the following security drill and, if applicable, bus evacuation reports for the 2023-2024 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

O-2. APPROVE LUNCH PRICES WITH POMPTONIAN

Approve Pomptonian's lunch prices for the 2024-2025 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

O-3. APPROVE PARTICIPATION IN NON-BINDING COOPERATIVE PURCHASE AGREEMENTS

Approve the district's participation in non-binding cooperative purchasing agreements for the 2024-2025 school year with the following:

1. Educational Data Services, Inc., 236 Midland Avenue, Saddlebrook, NJ
2. Hunterdon County ESC Cooperative Purchasing, 51 Sawmill Road, Lebanon, NJ
3. Educational Services Commission of New Jersey, 1660 Stelton Road, Piscataway, NJ
4. Somerset County Educational Services Commission, 568 Central Ave, Bridgewater, NJ
5. Sussex County Educational Services, 10 Gail Court, Sparta, NJ
6. Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council, 502 Millbrook Avenue, Randolph, NJ
7. Region 4 ES Interlocal, 7145 West Tidwell, Houston, TX
8. Sourcewell, 202 12th Street NE, P.O. Box 219, Staples, MN 56479
9. Omnia Partner Member ID: 947046 utilizing Omnia Partner, Region 4 ESC Contract #R200401, Minneapolis, Minnesota for ESIP project.
10. The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS), 4845 Highway 271 North, Pittsburg, TX 75686
11. New Jersey Educational Computing Cooperative (NJECC)
12. PEPPM Consortium membership, a national contract program for district purchasing agent

13. NJ Edge Consortium membership, a non-profit technology services provider.

O-4. APPROVE TO RENEW, AWARD OR PERMIT TO EXPIRE

Pursuant to P.L. 2015, Chapter 47, the Board intends to renew, award or permit to expire, the contracts previously awarded by the Board of Education. These contracts are, have been, and will continue to be in full compliance with all State and federal statutes and regulations; in particular, New Jersey Title 18A:18 et seq., NJA Chapter 23 and Federal Procurement Regulations 2CFR Part 200.317 et seq., in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

O-5. APPROVE RENTAL FEE SCHEDULE – 2024-2025

Approve rental fee schedule for charges for the use of school facilities for the 2024-2025 school year, in accordance with the information in the hands of each Board member.

O-6. APPROVE UPDATED LIST OF FINANCIAL VENDORS

Approve updated list of financial vendors (including flex-spending, 403(b) companies, etc.) doing business with the Township of Union Board of Education, in accordance with the list in the hands of each Board member.

O-7. APPROVE REQUEST FROM TOWNSHIP OF UNION – DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Approve request from the Township of Union – Department of Public Safety for the use of two (2) district school buses and two (2) drivers on July 10, 2024 to transport the participants of the 2024 Junior Police Academy Program to a tentative destination in Point Pleasant, New Jersey, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

O-8. APPROVE REQUEST FROM FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VAUXHALL REQUESTING USE OF JEFFERSON SCHOOL PARKING LOT

Approve request from the First Baptist Church of Vauxhall to use Jefferson School parking lot for an outdoor worship service on July 21, 2024 (8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.) (Certificate of Insurance provided), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

O-9. APPROVE REQUEST FROM TOWNSHIP RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Approve request from the Township of Union Recreation Department to use a Board of Education bus and driver for the following trips: (a) June 8, 2024, July 5, 2024, July 12, 2024, July 19, 2024, July 26, 2024, August 2, 2024 – Union Elks Pool, (b) July 1, 2024 – Kenilworth (Career Day Trip), (c) July 11, 2024 – Linden (Bowling Trip) and (d) August 1, 2024 – Union Sports Arena (ice skating trip), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

O-10. REJECT PROPOSAL RECEIVED FROM INNOVATIVE SUPPORTIVE SERVICES – MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING

Reject proposal received from Innovative Supportive Services for the mental health screening in schools grant RFP.

DISCUSSION:

Ms. Carbonell asked for clarification on O-10. Mrs. Koon stated the district put an RFP out for mental health screenings and the district received one proposal and the proposal did not satisfy all the requirements. Another RFP will be advertised.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Personnel Committee Resolutions:

Mrs. Mackey informed the Board that P-16 (Assistant Superintendent Jose Rodriguez, effective August 26, 2024) and P-1A-admin handout are being added to the agenda.

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following resolutions were moved by Mrs. Conteh-Mackey, 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 – 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. ACCEPT LETTERS OF RESIGNATION/RETIREMENT

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

Name	Position	Location	Eff. Date	Reason	Notes
Louis Grasso	Health/PE teacher	UHS	7/1/2024	Resignation	
Susan McCusker	Special Ed teacher	Connecticut Farms	7/1/2024	Resignation (correction)	
Donald Roberson	Groundsman	Blds and Grounds Dept	6/1/2024	Resignation	
Raymond Schwab	Visual and Performing Arts (Music) teacher	Hannah Caldwell	5/8/2024	Resignation	
Narisa Svetvilas	School Counselor	UHS	7/1/2024	Resignation	

P-3. APPROVE LEAVES

Approve leaves for the following staff:

Name	Position	Location	Leave Dates	Leave Type	Notes
Nicole Richardone	Math teacher	UHS	Updated 9/1/2025	New return date	
Sonia Decker	ESL teacher	BMS	5/13/2024-5/13/2025	Paid FMLA leave	
Coree Jones	Custodian	UHS	3/20/2024-6/1/2024	Unpaid FMLA leave	
Lisa Ashraf	School Counselor	Kawameeh	Intermittent 5/20/2024-5/20/2025	Intermittent FMLA leave	
Christopher Scarpati	Math teacher	BMS	9/9/2024-11/29/2024	Unpaid FMLA	
Debra Mills	Resource Room teacher	Washington	Updated 1/2/2025	New return date	
Nicole McGuire	Special Ed teacher	Battle Hill	5/28/2024-6/20/2024	Paid FMLA/ NJFLA followed by unpaid FMLA	
Eboni Dockery	2 nd grade teacher	Franklin	5/30/2024-6/20/2024	Paid FMLA/ NJFLA	

P-4. APPROVE ATTENDANCE AT ASBO INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE – KOON

Approve Yolanda Koon to attend the ASBO International Annual Conference in Nashville, Tennessee (September 17-22, 2024) for a total cost not to exceed \$2,500.00.

P-5. APPROVE DESIGNATION OF BOARD’S AGENTS TO REQUEST STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDS

Approve the following resolution to designate the Board’s agent to request State and federal funds:

RESOLVED, the Superintendent of Schools and the Business Administrator/Board Secretary for the Township of Union Board of Education or their designees, be designated as the Board’s agents to request state and federal funds under the existing State and Federal Laws for the 2024-2025 school year.

P-6 APPROVE DESIGNATED PERSON – ADA/FACILITY COORDINATOR, IPM COORDINATOR AND AHERA

Approve Yolanda Koon, School Business Administrator, and Anthony Cirella, Interim Facility Manager, as ADA/Facility Coordinator, IPM coordinator and AHERA designated person for the 2024-2025 school year at no cost to the district.

P-7. APPROVE EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT – KOON

Approve the Employment Contract of Yolanda Koon, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary for the 2024-2025 school year, in accordance with the information in the hands of each Board member.

P-8. APPROVE INCREMENT WITHHOLDING

Approve increment withholding for Employee #8907 for the 2024-2025 school year.

P-9. *Agenda item approved at June 11, 2024 worksession (Job Description-Manager of School-Based Clinical Services).*

P-10. APPROVE EMPLOYEES FOR REAPPOINTMENT – 2024-2025

Approve employees on the attached list to be reappointed for the 2024-2025 school year, in accordance with the information in the hands of each Board member.

P-11. APPROVE CENTRAL OFFICE PERSONNEL, UTTA, 11/12-MONTH UTASA AND UTEA MEMBERS HOLIDAY CALENDAR

Approve the Central Office Personnel, UTTA, 11/12-Month UTASA and UTEA Members Holiday Calendar for the 2024-2025 school year, in accordance with the information in the hands of each Board member.

P-12. APPROVE CUSTODIAL-MAINTENANCE HOLIDAY CALENDAR

Approve the Custodial-Maintenance Holiday Calendar for the 2024-2025 school year, in accordance with the information in the hands of each Board member.

P-13. *Agenda item approved at June 11, 2024 worksession (travel and related expenses-CA LMI Summer Institute-June 23-27, 2024).*

P-14. APPROVE ATTENDANCE AT AASPA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Approve Vincent Rettino to attend the American Association of School Personnel Administrators (AASPA) annual conference in Seattle, Washington (October 15-18, 2024), at a cost not to exceed \$3,500.00.

P-15. APPROVE ATTENDANCE AT AASPA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Approve Marissa McKenzie to attend the American Association of School Personnel Administrators (AASPA) annual conference in Seattle, Washington (October 15-18, 2024), at a cost not to exceed \$3,500.00.

P-16. APPROVE APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT – RODRIGUEZ

Approve to appoint Dr. Jose Rodriguez as Assistant Superintendent of Schools effective on or about August 26, 2024 – June 30, 2025 at an annual salary of \$192,988.00 in accordance with the terms and conditions of the individual employment contract between the Township of Union Board of Education and Dr. Rodriguez as approved by the Union County Executive County Superintendent of Schools, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

DISCUSSION:

None

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Mrs. Minneci (P-1C-#8; P-10, P-16)

MOTION CARRIED

Dr. Benaquista stated he is trying to build a team and Dr. Jose Rodriguez has an extensive resume and he is excited for him to start.

Dr. Rodriguez stated thank you for the support and we will move this district forward.

Ms. Santana stated we are a community and we fight for what we love. Thank you for coming to our district. We will move forward together.

Mrs. Conteh-Mackey stated welcome and she is happy to hear that he has a deep understanding of special services.

Mr. McDowell stated welcome; put the kids first and you will do well.

Ms. Carbonell stated welcome and she looks forward to working with him.

Mr. Nasta stated welcome and it is good to see that Dr. Benaquista will get the support to move the district forward.

Dr. Benaquista stated he wants to publicly recognize Marissa McKenzie and he looks forward to her July 10th start date.

Marissa McKenzie stated thank you for your recommendation and thank you for this opportunity.

Ms. Santana stated we expect so much from you. Build a team to the next level. Union has the loyalty.

Ms. Carbonell stated congratulations, it is a pleasure working with you and becoming part of the team to improve the district.

Mrs. Conteh-Mackey stated welcome. Expectations are higher for you and there is a lot of work that needs to be done. Forward thinking and all for the best interest of our students. You have our support.

Mr. McDowell stated a year from now we need to be a notch higher. We are behind you all the way.

Mr. Nasta stated congratulations; in the next year the district will be better because of this team – we support all of you.

Policy Committee:

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following policies were moved by Mr. McDowell, seconded by Ms. Carbonell, for **FINAL READING/ADOPTION**:

POL-1. POLICY 1140 -AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PROGRAM (M)

Approve Policy 1140 – Affirmative Action Program, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

POL-2. POLICY 1523 COMPREHENSIVE EQUITY PLAN (M)

Approve Policy 1523 – Comprehensive Equity Plan, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

POL-3. POLICY 1530 – EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES (M)

Approve Policy 1530 – Equity Employment Opportunities, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

POL-4. REGULATION 1530 – EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMPLAINT PROCEDURE (M)

Approve Regulation 1530 – Equal Employment Opportunity Complaint Procedure in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

POL-5. POLICY 1550 – EQUAL EMPLOYMENT/ANTI-DISCRIMINATION PRACTICES (M)

Approve Policy 1550 – Equal Employment/Anti-Discrimination Practices, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

POL-6. REGULATION 2200 – CURRICULUM CONTENT (M)

Approve Regulation 2200 – Curriculum Content, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

POL-7. POLICY 2260 – EQUITY IN SCHOOL AND CLASSROOM PRACTICES (M)

Approve Policy 2260 – Equity in School and Classroom Practices, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

POL-8. REGULATION 2260 – EQUITY IN SCHOOL AND CLASSROOM PRACTICES COMPLAINT PROCEDURE (M)

Approve Regulation 2260 – Equity in School and Classroom Practices Complaint Procedures, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

POL-9. POLICY 2411 – SCHOOL COUNSELING (M)

Approve Policy 2411 – School Counseling, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

POL-10. POLICY 2423 – BILINGUAL EDUCATION (M)

Approve Policy 2423 – Bilingual Education, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

POL-11. REGULATION 2423 – BILINGUAL EDUCATION (M)

Approve Regulation 2423 – Bilingual Education, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

POL-12. POLICY 2431.4 – PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF SPORTS-RELATED CONCUSSIONS AND HEAD INJURIES (M)

Approve Policy 2431.4 – Prevention and Treatment of Sports-Related Concussions and Head Injuries, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

POL-13. REGULATION 2431.4 – PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF SPORTS-RELATED CONCUSSIONS AND HEAD INJURIES (M)

Approve Regulation 2431.4 – Prevention and Treatment of Sports-Related Concussions and Head Injuries, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

POL-14. POLICY 3211 – CODE OF ETHICS

Approve Policy 3211 – Code of Ethics, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

POL-15. REGULATION 5440 – HONORING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT (NEW)

Approve Regulation 5440 – Honoring Student Achievement, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

POL-16. POLICY 5570 - SPORTSMANSHIP

Approve Policy 5570 - Sportsmanship, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

POL-17. POLICY 5750 – EQUITABLE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY (M)

Approve Policy 5750 – Equitable Educational Opportunity, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

POL-18. POLICY 5841 – SECRET SOCIETIES

Approve Policy 5841 – Secret Societies, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

POL-19. POLICY 5842 – EQUAL ACCESS OF STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Approve Policy 5842 – Equal Access of Student Organizations, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

POL-20. POLICY 7610 - VANDALISM

Approve Policy 7610 - Vandalism, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

POL-21. REGULATION 7610 - VANDALISM

Approve Regulation 7610 - Vandalism, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

POL-22. POLICY 9323 – NOTIFICATION OF JUVENILE OFFENDER CASE DISPOSITION

Approve Policy 9323 – Notification of Juvenile Offender Case Disposition, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

DISCUSSION:

POL-9 – Regulation 2411 – the term “Guidance Counselor” will be amended to read “School Counselor”.

Mr. Nasta stepped out of meeting prior to vote.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Residency Committee Resolutions:

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Santana reported the following on the following resolutions:

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
#266075	UHS – 10 th grade
#370253	Connecticut Farms Elementary School Pre-K4

R-2. REPORT OF STUDENTS VOLUNTARILY TRANSFERRED TO DISTRICT OF RESIDENCE

For informational purposes only (no vote required): The following residency investigations and hearings were completed and the listed students voluntarily transferred to the district of residence:

Student No.	School
#370781	Hannah Caldwell Elementary School – Pre-K4
#348161	Hannah Caldwell Elementary School – Grade 2
#351088	Livingston Elementary School – Grade 1
#330255	Connecticut Farms Elementary School – Grade 3
#350260	Connecticut Farms – Grade 1

For informational purposes only (no vote required): The following totals are as of the May 21, 2024 Board meeting (2023-2024 school year):

Students Removed:	12
Students Voluntarily Transferred:	32

Approval of Bills:

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, and moved by Mr. McDowell, seconded by Ms. Carbonell, that the Board concur with the bills listed in the permanent bound register appended to these minutes and be ordered for payment.

DISCUSSION:

None

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Unfinished Business:

Mr. Cohan congratulated the Class of 2024 and their families. Students thanked all of us and it was nice to see. He is pleased at the conference he is at.

Mrs. Scott-Hayden stated they are at a workshop in San Diego. Congratulations to all levels of graduation and wish them well. She welcomed Dr. Rodriguez. She stated she worked with Ms. McKenzie for 25 years and she gives 110% and always trying to do what is right. We as a district are on the right path with you, Dr. Benaquista, Dr. Rodriguez and Mrs. Koon.

Mrs. Minneci stated welcome to Dr. Rodriguez and Ms. McKenzie. Congratulations to the graduates and their families. She stated she attended the Franklin and Battle Hill moving up ceremonies and the Burnet Middle School graduation – everyone did a great job. She hopes to bring back what they learned at the workshop to the district.

Mr. McDowell stated 81 people have signed up for the 9 committees for realignment. He hopes to have a meeting scheduled prior to the start of school.

Mr. Nasta stated congratulations to the 2024 graduates. They thanked us and it was a good time. Congratulations to the new facility manager; happy it worked out for him. He is highly skilled and has a lot of leadership.

Ms. Carbonell stated thank you to Anthony for the parking he had for us at the graduation.

Mrs. Conteh-Mackey stated graduation is the true reflection of why we are here. A shout out to the support staff and teachers. Our students reflect our district and community. Thank you to all and a shout out to students with special disabilities.

Dr. Benaquista stated we are here for our students. Thank you to all our Board members.

Ms. Santana stated she moved to Union so that her brown children could live in a diverse community. Thank you for believing in me. It was the best time at graduation.

New Business:

None

Comments from the Public

Virginia Jeffries stated the Town of Union has a long history – Vauxhall section, immigrant population, whose laws are vastly different. Everyone has a voice to speak to the government. When speech is suppressed, you are violating free speech. She stated she was suppressed for speaking about an East Orange former employee and now at Union.

Susan Lipstein – Mrs. Koon read Mrs. Lipstein’s statement regarding the school librarian situation and same is appended to the minutes.

Jill Hall stated on Friday, 12 UHS students will be going to Iceland and in the spring students will be going to Japan. She also stated she is looking forward to the realignment meeting and will share her research. She stated LA schools have restricted cell phone use and she looks forward to the data from this.

Kathleen Brunsmeyer stated everyone is doing a great job – teachers, IT, administration. A shout out to the all the kids – they are amazing. It is a shining moment for the flag salute by the PreK.

MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Moved by Mrs. Conteh-Mackey, seconded by Ms. Carbonell, that the Board go into Executive Session at 8:49 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: Ms. Carbonell, Mr. Cohan, Mrs. Conteh-Mackey, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Minneci,
Mr. Nasta, Mrs. Scott-Hayden, Ms. Santana

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

The Board returned to public session at 9:18 p.m. Board members via Zoom did not return to public session.

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

APPROVE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

Approve to accept the Settlement Agreement in the matter of P.S. and T.S. obo F.S. v. UTBOE (OAL Docket No. EDS 10207-2023 N; Agency Ref. No. 2023-35977) as reviewed by the Board in Executive Session.

DISCUSSION:

None

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the Board in public session it was moved by Mr. McDowell, seconded by Ms. Santana, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Yolanda Koon

YOLANDA KOON
BOARD SECRETARY

