TOWNSHIP OF UNION BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING/BUDGET HEARING MINUTES – April 29, 2025

NOTICE OF MEETING:

TO ALL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS:

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Township of Union was held on Tuesday, April 29, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, Main Meeting Room, 1976 Morris Avenue, Union, New Jersey pursuant to notice sent to each member.

Ms. Carbonell called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:

Ms. Dicxiana Carbonell, Mr. Michael Cohan, Mrs. Guida Faria, Mr. Ronnie McDowell, Mrs. Nancy Minneci, Mr. Greg Nasta

ABSENT AT ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Elsie Conteh-Mackey (6:46 p.m.), Ms. Chastity Santana (6:39 p.m.), Mrs. Kimberly Scott-Hayden (6:06 p.m.)

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Christopher Buggy, Esq.

Mrs. Minneci led the Board and audience members in the Pledge of Allegiance and read the district's mission statement.

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

Mrs. Scott-Hayden arrived at 6:06 p.m.

MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Moved by Mr. Cohan, seconded by Mrs. Minneci, that the Board go into Executive Session at 6:06 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, student matters

Please take notice that minutes will be taken of the discussion conducted during the executive session and the Board will disclose the minutes of the executive session when the disclosure will not result in unwarranted invasion of individual privacy or prejudice to the best

interests of the Board of Education and provided that such disclosure does not violate federal, state or local statutes and does not fall within the attorney/client privilege.

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

 AYE: Mr. Cohan, Mrs. Faria, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Minneci, Mr. Nasta, Mrs. Scott-Hayden, Ms. Carbonell
NAY: None
MOTION CARRIED

The Board returned to public session at 7:02 p.m.

MOTION TO RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION:

There being no further business before the Board, it was moved by Mrs. Minneci, seconded by Mr. Cohan, that the Board return to public session at 7:02 p.m.

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

Approval of Minutes:

Moved by Ms. Santana, seconded by Mr. McDowell, that the following minutes be adopted:

- 1. March 11, 2025 worksession
- 2. March 11, 2025 executive session
- 3. March 18, 2025 regular meeting
- 4. March 18, 2025 executive session

DISCUSSION:

None

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

Mrs. Minneci, Mr. Nasta, Mrs. Scott-Hayden, Ms. Santana, Ms. Carbonell

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Mrs. Minneci (March 18th minutes)

MOTION CARRIED

Communications:

REQUEST FROM FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VAUXHALL

Request from First Baptist Church of Vauxhall to use the Jefferson School parking lot on Sunday, July 20, 2025 for an outside worship service from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Certificate of Insurance and Hold Harmless Agreement provided).

LETTER OF RETIREMENT – DECKER

Letter of resignation, for the purpose of retirement, from Sonia Decker, ESL teacher-Burnet Middle School, effective July 1, 2025.

LETTER OF RETIREMENT - ERDMAN

Letter of resignation, for the purpose of retirement, from Nancy Erdman, 10-month secretary-Connecticut Farms Elementary School, effective July 1, 2025.

LETTER OF RETIREMENT – GIANCASPRO

Letter of resignation, for the purpose of retirement, from Denise Giancaspro, 10-month secretary-Special Services Department, effective February 1, 2025.

LETTER OF RETIREMENT – TAVARES

Letter of resignation, for the purpose of retirement, from Diane Tavares, preschool paraprofessional-Washington Elementary School, effective July 1, 2025.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION - JONES-ACEVEDO

Letter of resignation from Miyoshi Jones-Acevedo, leave replacement School Social Worker-districtwide, effective May 1, 2025.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE UPDATE - LANGLEY

Request for leave update from Brittany Langley, teacher-speech specialist-Kawameeh Middle School, new return date September 1, 2026.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE UPDATE – DUPLISSI

Request for leave update from Kerri Duplissi, PE teacher-Hannah Caldwell Elementary School, new return date September 2, 2026.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE UPDATE – TSAGARIS

Request for leave update from Lauren Tsagaris, ESL teacher-Jefferson School, new return date September 2, 2026.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE UPDATE - PLACCA

Request for leave update from Nicole Placca, world language teacher-Union High School, new return date September 2, 2026.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE – JOHNSON

Request for paid FMLA from Jamie Johnson, 2nd grade teacher-Washington Elementary School, March 24, 2025-June 24, 2025.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE – JONES

Request for paid child rearing leave followed by unpaid FMLA/NJFLA from Stephanie Jones, second grade teacher-Battle Hill Elementary School, June 9, 2025-January 2, 2026.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE – SANTIAGO

Request for unpaid FMLA from Delfin Santiago, Vice Principal-Burnet Middle School, May 1, 2025-June 30, 2025.

REQUEST FOR INTERMITTENT LEAVE – PRATA

Request for paid intermittent FMLA from Sarah Prata, secretary-Union High School, March 28, 2025-March 28, 2026.

REQUESTS FOR INTERMITTENT LEAVE - ALICEA

Request for paid intermittent FMLA from Alyssa Alicea, speech specialist-Kawameeh Middle School, March 21, 2025-March 21, 2026.

REQUEST FOR INTERMITTENT LEAVE - CRACO

Request for paid intermittent NJFLA from Elizabeth Craco, teacher assistant-Kawameeh Middle School, May 25, 2025-May 25, 2026.

REQUEST FOR INTERMITTENT LEAVE – MANOCHIO

Request for paid intermittent NJFLA from Fernanda Manochio, accountant-Business Office, April 3, 2025-December 31, 2025.

REQUEST FOR INTERMITTENT LEAVE - OSBORNE

Request for paid intermittent NJFLA from Melissa Osborne, special education teacher-Burnet Middle School, March 19, 2025-March 19, 2026.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE – MURPHY

Request for paid medical leave rom Debra Murphy, secretary-Jefferson School, April 24, 2025-May 24, 2025.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE UPDATE – FOSTER

Request for extension of unpaid FMLA leave from Pricilla Foster, new return date April 11, 2025.

Comments from Public (on resolutions only):

Randy Davenport, attorney for Mr. Hamilton. Ms. Carbonell advised Mr. Davenport that there will not be a vote on this item, and it has been removed from the agenda.

Superintendent's Report:

- 1. State of the Schools Budget Hearing Public Comment
- 2. Presentations Union High School and Hannah Caldwell Elementary School
- 3. Student Liaison Alan Mowle

Presentation – Hannah Caldwell Elementary School – Mr. Shaw spoke to the Board and audience about Hannah Caldwell Elementary School and showed a slide show (presentation appended to minutes).

- A year of growth in resilience, community and spirit.
- 4th grade 90's day
- 4th grade walk a thon fundraiser
- PTA events Welcome Back Teacher Snack Treats; Scholastic Book Fair Fundraiser
- 3rd and 4th grade winter concert at Washington School
- PTA event Fall Festival pumpkin patch and petty zoo and Family Fun Night Halloween Dance at UHS
- Field Day
- Halloween parade with UPD
- PTA Events holiday teacher breakfast and hop into spring teacher lunch
- 4th grade basketball game fundraiser at UHS parents v students
- PTA event family fun night lucky to have you dance, karaoke night and movie night
- Chuck E. Cheese Fundraiser
- PTA event ice cream social
- A day at Liberty Hall Museum at Kean University

He also wanted to recognize and thank all that helped HCES during the transition - the Board, Central Office, parents, HCES staff, PTA and students.

Board President Carbonell – grateful for the adults coming together and thank you to the PTA and leadership. Vice President Scott-Hayden – thank you and we appreciate you. Dr. Benaquista thanked Mr. Shaw and PTA President.

Presentation – Union High School – Ms. Bossard, the PTA President, Mr. Patterno, Mr. Stapleton, Mr. Eichert and Ms. Fiske spoke to the Board and audience about Union High School (presentation appended to minutes).

- May 19th senior day, senior awards
- Hershey Park, pool party, breakfast
- June 5th Prom
- June 23 Graduation
- Title I building offers tutoring
- Peer Tutoring
- Honor Roll Winners
- Honors/Advanced Courses
- Advanced Placement Courses
- Certification programs and college credits
- CAD
- Tomorrow's teachers
- JROTC accomplishments
- Athletic accomplishments
- Change in schedule focus on academics and PLC time, teachers' collaboration
- Visting Millburn and Red Bank schools bathroom check-ins

- Rutgers/NJIT how to bridge our programs for students for college
- PTA/UHS invites parents to become members
- Slide show diversity, love, friendships, unity

Board President Carbonell – thank you; you all work well together. Dr. Benaquista – thank you for their collaboration.

Mrs. Yolanda Koon presented the FY26 – Budget:

Proposed Budget:

- \$186,923,489 all funds
- Decrease of \$1,314,528 (over last year) .70% decrease

Revenue Sources:

- \$171,774,841 total operating revenues
- \$56,070,435 state aid (33%)
- \$32,130 semi (0%)
- \$2,726,085 extraordinary aid (1%)
- \$2,491,688 fund balance (2%)
- \$110,454,503 local and miscellaneous (64%)

Projected Appropriations:

- \$171,774,841 general appropriations
- \$32,874,431 employee benefits (19%)
- \$8,397,769 purchase professional, tech service (5%)
- \$1,414,103 facilities/repairs (1%)
- \$31,218,460 other purchase service (18%)
- \$4,512,657 supplies and material (3%)
- \$536,915 equipment (0%)
- \$1,855,705 other service (1%)
- \$1,286,470 other uses of funds (1%)
- \$85,8780,488 salaries and extras (52%)

Comments from Public on Budget:

Mrs. Koon asked if there were any comments from the public.

Virgina Jeffries – she didn't see the placeholder on the agenda for the hearing. She indicated this district is doing better than other districts.

Board President Carbonell – proud of our district on the budget.

Mr. Cohan – thanked Mrs. Koon, Dr. Benaquista and staff for their extraordinary effort. He mentioned the possible Title I cut. The district has a great grant writer.

Ms. Carbonell – shout out to Mayor Bowser for his commitment to this district.

Ms. Santana – proud of this district, Board and administration. We are heading in the right direction for fiscal responsibility.

Dr. Benaquista introduced Alan Mowles – one of the district's student liaisons.

Alan Mowles – Events around the TUPS – presentation appended to minutes.

- Sports over 400 students athletes throughout the district
- Upcoming dates NJSLA testing, AP testing and Decision Day
- Girls Flag Football record 4-0
- JV Boys Volleyball placed 3rd at Livingston Invitational
- Freshman Boys Volleyball won Livingston Freshman Invitational record 8-0
- UHS softball defeated Caldwell High School and Union Catholic
- Boys and girls track team competed in the Penn Relays in Pennsylvania
- Track & Field participated in the Summit Relays and Morris Hills Relays
- Summit Relays Caleb Duvelson 2nd place varsity shot put, varsity girls 4x100 meter relay champions, varsity girls 800 meter sprint medley relay-champions
- Morris Hills Relays Caleb Duvelson 3rd place varsity shot put, novice boys 800 meter spring medley – relay champions, varsity girls – 4x100 meter relay finished 2nd place and 4x200 meter relay-champions
- UHS baseball team attended the lemonade stand to support Washington School student Camryn Dudek
- UHS Clubs Asian Student Alliance, Law Club, Key Club, Art Club, Future Doctors, Debate Club
- Highlighting the Future Take Your Kids to Work Day, Annual Black History Month Essay Contest, Union Rotary Club Honors Students for Exemplary Citizenship-Michael Mwaniki and Brian Trotman
- Recognizing Excellence in Union Gabriel Hargrove, Allison Zeiser, Desmond Igbinoson, Raymond Reily, Jeremiah Desormes

Mr. McDowell told Alan that he looks forward to see what he will do in his future. Alan indicated he is going to Rutgers and will study to be a civil litigation attorney. Ms. Carbonell told Alan that he is a natural for broadcasting.

Mayor Bowser advised the Board and community that open weekend at the new library is June 6, 7, and 8, 2025 and all should come out. June 6 - Blackbox Theatre, June 7 – parade and June 8 – various events. The library has meeting rooms, accessory rooms, a projector, studio and pod casting room. Ms. Carbonell thanked the Mayor for all he does for the district

Dr. Benaquista continued his presentation (see presentation appended to minutes):

• In the U-highlights – Hero Among Us: Ray Reilly – selflessly rushed to save a life from a burning car. Thank you for your service and bravery.

- APEX Awards April 10th 483 students were celebrated who achieved Advance Proficiency scores on last year's NJSLA for ELA and MAT
- Winter Sports: Winter Track State Champions Caleb Duvelson, Mikarla Portuondo, Babadara Olowe, Sharagaye Able, Eshy Christian, Liyanna Muscat, J'Nay Camara.
- Wrestling: Ariel Azeredo 1st place County Champion, 1st place district champion, 3rd place in North 2 Region; Mark Belfleur 2nd place in district; Aaron Acevedo 3rd place in district; Aidan Cross par-Hills Tournament Champion; Gabe Hargove 1st place Dover Tournament, 3rd place in UCT, 2nd place in district; Obreight Ingram Par Hills Tournament Champion, 2nd place in district; Jaydon Robles 3rd place in UCT; Nick Bertolotti 2nd place in district
- New Hires in January
- Strategic Planning Live Events May 6th UHS Library 6 p.m. curriculum and instruction; May 15th UHS Library fiscal, operations, personnel and facilities

Dr. Benaquista – (1) reporting of HIB cases – April 9, 2025-April 29, 2025-5 founded and 2 not founded/inconclusive; (2) affirming HIB cases – March 19, 2025-April 8, 2025-5 founded and 1 not founded/inconclusive.

Ms. Carbonnell thanked Kristin Nunes for keeping the community advised on social media. Dr. Benaquista advised the community that Kristin Nunes will also be using TikTok.

Education/Student Discipline Committee Resolutions:

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

E-1. Reported at April 8, 2025 worksession (Report of HIB-March 18-April 8, 2025).

E-1A. Affirmed at April 8, 2025 worksession (Determination of HIB-March 12-18, 2025).

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

Superintendent's Report of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) for the period April 9 to April 29, 2025, 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 March 18, 2025 to April 8, 2025, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

E-2. Approved at April 8, 2025 worksession (Girls on the Run-Franklin).

E-3. ACCEPT FUNDS FROM NJDOE – COMPUTER SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL COURSE GRANT AWARD

Approve acceptance of funds in the amount of \$40,500.00 for the Computer Science High School Course Grant Award from the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) for the 2025-2056 school year.

E-4. ACCEPT FUNDS FROM NJDOE – CLIMATE LITERACY FOR COMMUNITY RESILIENCY COMPETITIVE GRANT

Approve acceptance of funds in the amount of \$30,500.00 for the Climate Literacy for Community Resiliency Competitive Grant from the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) for the 2025-2026 school year.

E-5. APPROVE UHS – 2025 ESY PROGRAM

Approve Union High School for the 2025 Extended School Year (ESY) program, ESY services, CST testing and home instruction, IEP Team meetings, and Work Based Learning/Community Based Instruction (Farmer's Café, Farmer's Crafty Corner and Print Shop, Copy That/Copy Room) from June 25-August 31, 2025.

E-6. Agenda item approved at April 8, 2025 worksession (long-term suspension-home instruction-students #291068/#311079-BMS).

E-7. Agenda item approved at April 8, 2025 worksession (continue long-term suspension-home instruction-students #266593 and #266641).

E-8. APPROVE IMPLEMENTATION OF QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT – RUTGERS UNIVERSITY/NEWARK

Approve Kim Zieser to implement a quality improvement project (asthma education program for students) as part of her studies toward earning a Doctorate of Nursing Practice in Leadership from Rutgers University, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

E-9a. APPROVE SCHOOL CALENDAR - 2025-2026

Approve the 2025-2026 school calendar, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

E-9b. APPROVE CENTRAL OFFICE PERSONNEL, 11/12-MONTH UTASA AND UTEA MEMBERS HOLIDAY CALENDAR

Approve the Central Office Personnel, 11/12-month UTASA and UTEA Members Holiday Calendar for the 2025-2026 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

E-9c. APPROVE CUSTODIAL-MAINTENANCE HOLIDAY CALENDAR

Approve the Custodial-Maintenance Holiday Calendar for the 2025-2026 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

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

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED

Fiscal and Planning Committee Resolutions:

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

- F-1. TREASURER'S REPORT That the Treasurer's Report dated March 31, 2025 be accepted.
- F-2. SECRETARY'S REPORT That the Secretary's Report dated March 31, 2025 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 March 31, 2025 no budgetary line item account has obligations and payments (contractual orders) which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the district Board of education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8 and 18:22-8.1.

<u>/s/ Yolanda Koon</u> Yolanda Koon, Board Secretary

Dated

Pursuant to N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.2(h), we certify that as of March 31, 2025 after review of the secretary's monthly financial report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials that to the best of our knowledge no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.2(d)3 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year. This certification is solely based on the information provided by the School Business Administrator and Board Secretary and is assumed by the Board to be correct.

F-4. APPROVE APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS

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

F-6. APPROVE DISTRICTWIDE TRAVEL AND RELATED EXPENSES

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

F-7. Approved at April 8, 2025 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 2024-2025 STATE CONTRACT APPROVED VENDORS

Approve the amended list of the 2024-2025 State Contract Approved Vendors pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-10(a) (purchase through State agency; procedure) to facilitate schools' purchasing, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-9A. APPROVED LIST OF CONTRACTS/PURCHASES (STUDENT ACTIVITY)

Approve the attached list of contracts and/or purchases pursuant to the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5(21) (paid by funds raised by or collected by students), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes:

School	Account/Department	Vendor/Description	Amount	
Kawameeh Middle School	41/Musical	Circuit Lighting – lighting services for musical – Matilda Jr.	\$5,600.00	
Kawameeh Middle School	41/Musical	Tina's Productions – costume rentals for musical, Matilda Jr.	\$5,200.00	
Kawameeh Middle School	35/6 th Grade	Turtle Back Zoo – 6 th grade field trip	\$3,000.00 (not to exceed)	
Kawameeh Middle School	17/Music	EPN Travel Services – field trip to Music in the Parks competition	\$9,000.00 (not to exceed)	
Kawameeh Middle School	51/Art	Villani Bus Company – field trip transportation	\$1,725.00	
Kawameeh Middle School	35/Administration	UBOE – reimburse KMS transportation account for student field trip to Turtle Back Zoo	\$1,240.00	
Kawameeh Middle School	23/World Language	Mambo – field trip for Spanish students to Mambo Cuban Restaurant	\$1,300.00 (not to exceed)	
Livingston Elementary School	2013/Main Office	Turtle Back Zoo – field trip – 3 rd grade	\$1,800.00	
Union High School/Athletics	3340/softball	World's Finest Chocolate – to raise funds for hotel fees not covered by Army for JROTC National Competition	\$3,900.00 (not to exceed)	
Union High School	2049/NHS	NASSP – graduation stoles	\$2,915.12 (not to exceed	
Union High School	Cosmetology	HEBS – Hair & Beauty Education Summit	\$1,225.00	
Union High School	2227/Class of 2025	Carr & Associates – Senior Day Deposit	\$25,000.00	
Union High School	2012/Prom	MBreeze Music-prom DJ	\$1,300.00	
Union High School	2012/Prom	Image Bar Photobooth – prom photobooth	\$1,125.00	

Union High School	2012/Prom	C&R Graphics – staff merchandise	\$1,425.00
Union High School	2053/WL Student Council	Amazon/C&R Graphics/ Somerset Syrup & Concessions concessions/ shirts/decorations – Staff v Students flag football game	\$4,000.00 (not to exceed)
Union High School	2227/Senior Class	Zolnier Graduate Supply – 2025 graduation – student caps and gowns	\$9,985.00
Union High School	2209/Library Fines, Lost Books	Township of Union Board of Education – funds to general ledger account	\$1,217.85
Union High School	2201/School ID Fines	Township of Union Board of Education – funds to general ledger account	\$7,035.29
Union High School	2077/UHSPAC	Hellhound Audio – audio rental and engineering for Into the Woods	\$10,000.00 (not to exceed)
Union High School	2077/UHSPAC	11thourDesign – graphic design, marketing, printing, scenic materials for Into the Woods	\$10,000.00 (not to exceed)
Union High School	2077/Theatre	Lounge It Up/Brian Lynch – lighting equipment for Into the Woods	\$3,000.00 (not to exceed)
Union High School	2077/UHSPAC	Somerset Foods and Concessions – concessions food and equipment for Into the Woods	\$2,000.00 (not to exceed)
Union High School	2077/UHSPAC	Anthony Freitas-scenic design and painting for Into the Woods\$4,500.00 (n exceed)	
Battle Hill Elementary School	2012	New Jersey Jackals-baseball game (grades K-4)-May 28 th	\$4,200.00 (not to exceed)
Union High School	Senior Class	Hershey Park – senior trip	\$8,855.43
Union High School	Senior Class	Sunny Trail Inc\$6,300.00transportation for senior trip	

F-9B. APPROVE FUNDRAISERS

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

Event Name	Date	Purpose
Petal Wars	April 29-May 2,	Jefferson/PBSIS – to raise funds for PBSIS
	2025	rewards
Dave and Busters Power Cards	April 9-June 1, 2025	Kawameeh/Music Dept. – to raise funds for
		annual Dorney Park Music competition
Staff v Students Flag Football Game	April 1-May 30,	UHS/Student Council – to raise funds for
	2025	student council activities
Cupcake Wars	April 11, 2025	Washington/Guidance Counselor Activities -
		to raise money for a student with cancer

F-9C. ACCEPT DONATIONS

Accept the following donations:

From	For Use By	\$/Item
Morgan Cycle (coordinated by	Students - Pre-K 3-4	Approximately 500 scooters and
Union Police Department)		300 helmets

F-10. 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 April 2025), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-11. APPROVE PETTY CASH FUND FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

Approve the Board Secretary petty cash fund for the 2025-2026 school year: Fund-Board Secretary, Amount: \$500.00 per month (not to exceed \$6,000.00); Responsible Party: Board Secretary.

F-12. APPROVE APPLICATION OF 2025 NJSIG SAFETY GRANT Approve application of the 2025 NJSIG Safety Grant in the amount of \$17,193.00.

F-13. APPROVE RESOLUTION/AGREEMENT – COORDINATED TRANSPORTATION SERVICES – UCESC

Approve the Resolution/Agreement for Participation in Coordinated Transportation Services between the district and the Union County Educational Services Commission (UCESC) for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, in connection with the information appended to the minutes.

F-ATTY. *For informational purposes only – vote not required*. List of legal services paid as of March 18, 2025 for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

Resolutions F-14 through F-21 Concern the Final Budget for the 2025-2026 School Year

The Superintendent recommends approval to adopt the final budget for FY 2025-2026:

- F-14. APPROVE GENERAL FUND TAX LEVY FINAL BUDGET Approve the General Fund tax levy of \$110,248,892.00 in the 2025-2026 school year.
- F-15. APPROVE TRAVEL AND RELATED EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

Approve Travel and Related Expense Reimbursement (not to exceed \$85,000.00) for the 2025-2026 school year.

F-16. APPROVE ESTABLISHING A MAXIMUM DOLLAR LIMIT – PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Approve establishing a maximum dollar limit for professional services \$4,661,284.00 for the 2025-2026 school year.

F-17. APPROVE USE OF EXCESS SURPLUS FUNDS/FUND BALANCE

Approve the Board of Education to include in the General Fund Budget \$2,491,688.00 of the Board of Education's excess surplus funds \$1,500,000.00 and additional fund balance \$991,688.00 (@ 6/30/24 per audit) to help close budget gap.

F-18 APPROVE USE OF ENROLLMENT ADJUSTMENT

Approve in the final budget the adjustment for enrollment in the amount of \$39,645.00 in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-15.3. The district has fully exhausted all eligible statutory spending authority. The adjustment will be used for instructional supplies and will complete this by June 30, 2026, and acknowledges that it cannot be deferred or incrementally completed over a longer period of time.

F-19. APPROVE ADJUSTMENT FOR HEALTH CARE COSTS

Approve in the final budget the adjustment for increased costs of health benefits in the amount of \$1,391,538.00. The additional funds will be used to pay for the additional increases in health benefit premiums.

F-20. APPROVE USE OF BANKED CAP

Approve in the final budget the adjustment for banked cap, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-10.1(b). The district has fully exhausted all eligible statutory spending authority and must increase the base budget in the amount of \$646,951.00 for the purpose of instructional supplies and materials. The district intends to complete said purposes by June 2026.

F-21. APPROVE EARLY CHILDHOOD PRESCHOOL BUDGET - 2025-2026

Approve the resolution approving the early childhood preschool budget for the 2025-2026 school year in the amount of \$10,321,831.00, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-22. APPROVE TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT AGREEMENTS

Approve Transportation Contract Agreements with Ewing Board of Education for (a) the Extended School Year (ESY), July 8, 2024-August 16, 2024 at a cost of \$77.05 per day (30 days) with a not to exceed amount of \$2,311.50, and (b) the regular school year, September 4, 2024-October 18, 2024 at a cost of \$186.46 per day (31 days), not to exceed \$5,780.26, in accordance with the <u>non-public</u> information in the hands of each Board member.

F-23. APPROVE PARENT/PUPIL TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT – 2024-2025

Approve parent/pupil transportation contract for a special education student attending DLC (New Providence) at the rate of \$33.60 per day (not to exceed \$4,200.00) for the period January 6, 2025-June 30, 2025, in accordance with the <u>non-public</u> information available to each Board member.

F-24. REPORT RECEIPT OF PROPOSALS AND APPROVE CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Report receipt of proposals for Construction Management Services from (a) Pinnacle, (b) EPIC, (c) Greyhawk and (d) M&M Construction and the Superintendent recommends approving M&M Construction for pre-construction service for fiscal years 2025 and 2026.

DISCUSSION: None

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

Ms. Carbonell thanked Morgan and UPD for their donation to the PreK students.

Grievance/Negotiations Committee:

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

G-1. Approved at April 8, 2025 worksession (MOA–UTASA-July 1, 2024-June 30, 2027).

G-2. APPROVE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT - UTASA

Approve Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) between the Union Township Association of School Administrators and the Township of Union Board of Education for the contract term of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

G-3. APPROVE SICK BANK AGREEMENT - UTTA

Approve Union Township Transportation Association (UTTA) Sick Bank Agreement, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

DISCUSSION:

None

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

Legal Committee:

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

L-1. APPROVE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

Approve Settlement Agreement in the matter of A.O. on behalf of K.A. v Township of Union Board of Education, in accordance with the <u>non-public</u> information appended to the minutes.

DISCUSSION: None

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

Operations/Technology Committee Resolutions:

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

O-1. APPROVE SECURITY DRILL/BUS EVACUATION REPORTS

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:41-1 and P.L. 2009, Chapter 178, approve the following security drill and, if applicable, bus evacuation reports for the 2024-2025 school year, in accordance with the <u>non</u>-public information appended to the minutes.

O-2. APPROVE REQUEST FROM FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VAUXHALL

Approve request from First Baptist Church of Vauxhall to use the Jefferson School parking lot on Sunday, July 20, 2025 for an outside worship service from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Certificate of Insurance and Hold Harmless Agreement provided), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

O-3. APPROVE TOWNSHIP OF UNION PUBLIC SCHOOL HALL OF FAME

Approve the Township of Union Public School Hall of Fame, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

O-4. APPROVE CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM CORRECTION ACTION PLAN(S)

Approve the Chronic Absenteeism Correction Action Plan(s) for the following Township of Union Public Schools. Union High School, Burnet Middle School, Kawameeh Middle School, Jefferson Elementary School, Battle Hill Elementary School, Hannah Caldwell Elementary School, Franklin Elementary School, Livingston Elementary School, and Washington Elementary School for the 2024-2025 school year.

T-1. APPROVE RECYCLING OF EQUIPMENT

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

T-2. APPROVE ADVERTISEMENT FOR SALE - IT EQUIPMENT

Approve advertisement for sale of the following IT equipment: various Cisco switches which has been deemed no longer needed, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

DISCUSSION: None

 AYE: Mr. Cohan, Mrs. Conteh-Mackey, Mrs. Faria, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Minneci, Mr. Nasta, Mrs. Scott-Hayden, Ms. Santana, Ms. Carbonell
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: Mr. McDowell (O-2)
MOTION CARRIED

Personnel Committee Resolutions:

Ms. Santana advised that agenda item P-7 is being removed and will not voted on.

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

P-1A. Approved at April 8, 2025 worksession (Personnel-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 2024-2025 school year.

Name	Position	Rate
Edilannys Feliz	Sub-custodian	\$16.00/hr.
Rosanna Rodriguez	Sub-custodian	\$16.00/hr.
Maria Zapata	Sub-custodian	\$16.00/hr.
Emma Pallitta	Daily sub	\$140.00/per day

P-3A. ACCEPT LETTERS OF RESIGNATION/RETIREMENT

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

Name	Position	Location	Eff. Date	Reason	Yrs of Service
Sonia Decker	ESL teacher	BMS	7/1/2025	Retirement	11 yrs
Nancy Erdman	10-month secretary	Connecticut Farms	7/1/2025	Retirement	15 yrs
Denise Giancaspro	10-month secretary	Special Services Dept.	2/1/2025	Retirement	9 yrs
Diane Tavares	Preschool paraprofessional	Washington	7/1/2025	Retirement	25 yrs
Miyoshi Jones- Acevedo	Leave replacement school social worker	Districtwide	5/1/2025	Resignation	

P-3B. APPROVE LEAVES

Approve leaves for the following staff:

Name	Position	Location	Leave Dates	Leave Type
Brittany Langley	Speech	KMS	New return	New return date
	specialist		date 9/1/2026	
Kerri Duplissi	PE teacher	Hannah	New return	New return date
-		Caldwell	date 9/2/2026	
Lauren Tsagaris	ESL teacher	Jefferson	New return	New return date
-			date 9/2/2026	
Nicole Placca	World	UHS	New return	New return date
	language		date 9/2/2026	
	teachere			
Sarah Prata	Secretary	UHS	Intermittent	Paid intermittent FMLA
			3/28/2025-	
			3/28/2026	
Alyssa Alicea	Speech	KMS	Intermittent	Paid intermittent FMLA
	specialist		3/21/2025-	
			3/21/2026	
Elizabeth Craco	Teacher	KMS	Intermittent	Paid intermittent NJFLA
	assistant		5/25/2025-	
			5/25/2026	
Fernanda	Accountant	Business	Intermittent	Paid intermittent NJFLA
Manochio		Office	4/3/2025-	
			12/31/2025	
Jamie Johnson	2 nd grade	Washington	3/24/2025-	Paid FMLA
	teacher		6/24/2025	
Stephanie Jones	2 nd grade	Battle Hill	6/9/2025-	Paid child rearing leave
	teacher		1/2/2026	followed by unpaid
				FMLA/NJFLA
Delfin Santiago	Vice	BMS	5/1/2025-	Unpaid FMLA
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Principal		6/30/2025	
Melissa Osborne	Special Ed	BMS	Intermittent	Paid intermittent NJFLA
	teacher		3/19/2025-	
			3/19/2026	

Debra Murphy	Secretary	Jefferson	4/24/2025- 5/24/2025	Paid medical leave
Pricilla Foster			New return date 4/11/2025	Extension of unpaid FMLA

P-4. APPROVE STUDENT TEACHERS AND INTERNSHIPS

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

P-5. APPROVE VOLUNTEERS

Approve volunteers to perform services within the district, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

P-6. Agenda item removed prior to Board meeting (Central Office Resolution).

P-7. Agenda item removed at April 29, 2025 regular meeting (termination of employee #10994).

- P-8. **APPROVE TERMINATION OF EMPLOYEE #12573** Approve termination of Employee #12573, effective May 30, 2025.
- P-9. **APPROVE TERMINATION OF EMPLOYEE #12363** Approve termination of Employee #12363, effective May 30, 2025.

DISCUSSION: None

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

MOTION CARRIED

Policy Committee:

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following policies were moved by Mrs. Minneci, seconded by Mrs. Faria, for FINAL READING/ADOPTION:

POL-1. POLICY 5460 - HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION (M)

Approve Policy 5460-High School Graduation, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

POL-2. POLICY 5512 - HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION OR BULLYING (M)

Approve Policy 5512-Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

POL-3. POLICY 5516 - USE OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Approve Policy 5516-Use of Electronic Communication Devices, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

POL-4. POLICY 5710 – STUDENT GRIEVANCES

Approve Policy 5710-Student Grievances, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

POL-5. POLICY 7441 – ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE IN SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND ON SCHOOL GROUNDS (M)

Approve Policy 7441-Electronic Surveillance in School Buildings and on School Grounds, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

POL-6. POLICY 8500 – FOOD SERVICES (M)

Approve Policy 8500-Food Services, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

POL-7. POLICY 9320 – COOPERATION WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES (M)

Approve Policy 9320-Cooperation With Law Enforcement Agencies, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

POL-8. REGULATION 5533 - STUDENT SMOKING

Approve Regulation 5533-Student Smoking, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Cohan indicated the regulation makes certain that smoking is banned in schools – it is very stringent.

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

Mrs. Minneci, Mr. Nasta, Mrs. Scott-Hayden, Ms. Santana, Ms. Carbonell NAY: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED

Residency Committee Resolutions:

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

R-1. REPORT OF STUDENTS VOLUNTARILY TRANSFERRED TO DISTRICT OF RESIDENCE

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

Student No.	School
#266671	Union High School – 11 th grade

#390762	Hannah Caldwell Elementary School – Pre-K 3
#380775	Hannah Caldwell Elementary School – Pre-K 4
#360808	Hannah Caldwell Elementary School – 1 st grade
#328207	Jefferson School – 5 th grade

For informational purposes only (no vote required): The following totals are as of the March 18, 2025 Board meeting (2024-2025 school year):

Students Removed:	8
Students Voluntarily Transferred:	12

DISCUSSION:

None

Approval of Bills:

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

DISCUSSION:

None

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

Unfinished Business:

Mr. Cohan spoke about the APEX reports and the most accomplished students are being acknowledged – it was a special event; many positive things are happening in the district.

Into the Woods production – it was an excellent performance; he complimented the students and staff.

Mrs. Minneci spoke about attending two activities at Union High School – Allied Health and Tomorrow's Teachers.

Ms. Santana spoke about varsity baseball and how great our children are in their activities and athletics. She told Alan Mowle that he is a talented warrior, and he needs to come back and share with the Board and the community.

Mrs. Faria attended the production of Matilda and the students did a great job. They all worked so hard together and thanked the staff that dedicated their time.

Dr. Benaquista – he will continue promoting all the good things in the district.

Ms. Carbonell – she attended a walk through of Burnet Middle School – thank you to the custodians who are fixing the auditorium.

The APEX awards was such a special night and we are so proud of our students.

The Rotary Club – thank you to Kathy Arminio on the fundraiser for one of our students battling cancer.

New Business:

Mrs. Scott-Hayden – thanked the residency investigators and asked that before this year ends, to bring in our investigators because they are going above and beyond their job.

Comments from the Public:

Giuliana Muscavage spoke about the cost of AP exams and that the students are now responsible for paying for the exams. She asked that in 2025-2026 that the district pay for the exams.

Ms. Carbonell asked Dr. Rodriguez and the Education Committee to look into this.

Andrew Paterek spoke about the AP exams and indicated that last year the district covered the cost. Now that the district does not cover the cost, it is a financial burden to students.

Jill Hall – it was bring your child to work at UHS and it was eye opening to see how UHS students stepped up and were so great with the kids.

Pat Bridges just returned from Japan with our students and she will be going to Greece with 12 students.

Virginia Jeffries – asked questions concerning F-16, F-17 and approval of bills. She indicated that she has an OPRA request for Taylor Law invoices and has not received anything and it is passed 7 days. Ms. Carbonell indicated that the invoices need to be redacted and that takes some time. She also indicated that she is waiting for her to come to a public meeting with something positive to say, even though she doesn't live in Union.

Mr. Cohan responded to Ms. Jeffries regarding F-16, F-17 and approval of bills.

MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Moved by Ms. Santana, seconded by Mr. Cohan, that the Board go into Executive Session at 9:05 p.m. to discuss the following subject matters without the presence of the public in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b: legal update, student matters

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

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

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

The Board returned to public session at 10:22 p.m.

MOTION TO RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION:

There being no further business before the Board, it was moved by Mrs. Faria, seconded by Ms. Santana, that the Board return to public session at 10:22 p.m.

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

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVE LONG-TERM SUSPENSION AND HOME INSTRUCTION

Approve to start or continue long-term suspension and home instruction for the following students: (a) #291068, (b) #311079, (c) #266593, (d) #266641, (e) #250542, (f) #286048, (g) #280579, (h) #278202 and (i) #290275.

DISCUSSION: None

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

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the Board in public session it was moved by Mr. Cohan, seconded by Ms. Santana, that the meeting be adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

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

MOTION CARRIED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Yolanda Koon

YOLANDA KOON **BOARD SECRETARY**