

TOWNSHIP OF UNION BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA – October 15, 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, October 15, 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 6:01 p.m.

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:

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

ABSENT AT ROLL CALL:

None

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Dr. Gerald Benaquista, Dr. Jose Rodriguez, Mrs. Yolanda Koon

ALSO PRESENT:

Mr. Christopher Buggy, Esq.

Ms. Carbonell 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 Mrs. Scott-Hayden, seconded by Mrs. Minneci, 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, 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 6:55 p.m.

**MOTION TO RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION:**

There being no further business before the Board it was moved by Mrs. Minneci, seconded by Mrs. Conteh-Mackey, that the Board return to public session at 6:55 p.m.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

**Approval of Minutes:**

Moved by Mrs. Minneci, seconded by Mrs. Conteh-Mackey, that the following minutes be adopted:

- 1. September 10, 2024 – worksession
- 2. September 10, 2024 – executive session
- 3. September 17, 2024 – regular meeting
- 4. September 17, 2024 – executive session

**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

**Communications:**

**LETTER FROM TOWNSHIP OF UNION RECREATION DEPARTMENT – JEFFERSON SCHOOL PARKING LOT**

Letter from Superintendent of Recreation for the Township of Union requesting the use of the Jefferson School parking lot on Saturday October 19, 2024 (rain date Sunday, October 20, 2024) from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. for the Township’s annual Trunk or Treat event.

**LETTER FROM UHS PTA – UHS PRACTICE FIELD**

Letter from UHS PTA requesting the use of the Union High School practice field for the Junior bonfire on Thursday, October 17, 2024 (rain date Thursday, October 24, 2024) from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

**LETTER FROM TOWNSHIP OF UNION EDUCATION FOUNDATION – WALKWAY OF HONOR**

Letter from Township of Union Education Foundation requesting to hold a dedication ceremony at the Walkway of Honor at Union High School (outside of the North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street entrance) on Wednesday, November 13, 2024 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. (in case of inclement weather, request is to hold ceremony inside the lobby of Union High School).

**LETTER OF RESIGNATION – GARDNER**

Letter of resignation from Lorraine Gardner, cafeteria/playground aide-Washington Elementary School, effective September 20, 2024.

**LETTER OF RESIGNATION – GIASI**

Letter of resignation from Teresa Giasi, behavior technician-Battle Hill Elementary School, effective October 12, 2024.

**LETTER OF RESIGNATION – SORBARA**

Letter of resignation from Giuseppe Sorbara, plumber-Buildings and Grounds Department, effective September 11, 2024.

**LETTER OF RETIREMENT – TOWER**

Letter of resignation, for the purpose of retirement, from Pam Tower, special education teacher-Kawameeh Middle School, effective February 1, 2025.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE – CAVERLY**

Request for paid medical leave from Bonnie Caverly, first grade teacher-Livingston Elementary School, January 6, 2025-March 31, 2025.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE – DOWSON**

Request for paid child rearing leave followed by unpaid FMLA/NJFLA from Katie Dowson, English teacher-Burnet Middle School, December 16, 2024-May 22, 2025.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE – PRIETO**

Request for paid medical leave from Diana Prieto, counselor-Union High School, October 1, 2024-November 11, 2024.

**REQUEST FOR INTERMITTENT LEAVE – WHITEHOUSE**

Request for intermittent paid FMLA from Janet Whitehouse, teacher-Jefferson School, September 30, 2024-June 25, 2025.

**REQUEST FOR INTERMITTENT LEAVE – BOYD**

Request for paid intermittent FMLA from John Boyd, carpenter-Buildings and Grounds Department, October 1, 2024-October 1, 2025.

**LETTER FROM VAUXHALL HISTORICAL SOCIETY – JEFFERSON SCHOOL**

Letter from Vauxhall Historical Society requesting use of Jefferson School, the presence of the UHS ROTC to post colors and lead the Pledge of Allegiance, the use of 100 chairs, a podium, a microphone and 6 tables on Saturday, November 9, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to honor veterans from the Vauxhall community who have served in the military from WWI to present.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE UPDATE – VIGIL**

Request for unpaid FMLA leave update from Alexis Vigil, first grade teacher-Washington Elementary School, new return date February 3, 2025.

**REQUEST FOR INTERMITTENT LEAVE – SENKIW**

Request for paid intermittent FMLA from Donna Senkiw, secretary-Burnet Middle School, November 1, 2024-June 15, 2025.

**REQUEST FROM UNION RAMS POP WARNER FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION – FOOTBALL FACILITY**

Request from the Union Rams Pop Warner Football Association to use the UHS football field and facility for the league playoffs on Sunday, October 20, 2024 and Sunday, October 27, 2024.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE – COCOCCIA**

Request for paid FMLA from Laura Cococcia, science teacher-Burnet Middle School, October 7, 2024-November 25, 2024.

**Comments from Public (on resolutions being approved):**

Mrs. Koon read into the records an email from Lisa Krauze, the School Library Media Specialist at Kawameeh Middle School:

“Ms. Santana,

I'm so glad you were able to stop by the Kawameeh Library last night. As I told you when you were here, I have focused my book budget on purchasing books that are not only diverse in representation, but also in accessibility. Last year, along with John Irwin who was the Bunet librarian, I got a grant to purchase [VOX Books](#) - books that contain an audio component that allows students to listen along as they read printed books. This year, I used a portion of my book budget to expand this collection with similar read-along books - [WonderBooks](#) by Playaway. These books are excellent for students with dyslexia and other reading issues to help decode words and enhance comprehension, for ESL students learning to pronounce words, or for any students who simply want to read along as they hear the narrator make the words come alive. They are proving to be very popular.

I have also focused my budget on buying [large print books](#) where available. They have the same content as regular print books but are easier on the eyes. Large print books make reading more accessible in a number of ways including:

- larger print, with fewer words on each page, makes reading seem to go faster which is encouraging to struggling readers
- increased white space helps readers from skipping words and lines
- students with vision problems will have an easier time reading the words

My rep at Playaway also told me that they are coming out with a new product: Decodables - books that will have 2 modes. One mode will read the story aloud, and the other mode will break down the sounds using phonics. These books could be great for ESL, special ed, and younger grades for young readers. I plan to have a video meeting in a few months to find out more and see a demonstration. I plan to share this information with the librarians in other schools and grades, as well as with teachers and possibly supervisors in other departments.

Thank you and the rest of the board for your continued support.”

Susan Lipstein indicated that the grant money was from the Township of Union Education Foundation – it went to both Kawameeh and Burnet Middle Schools. She also asked if the Personnel Specialist was a new position.

Virginia Jeffries – had concerns regarding OPMA, NJSA 10:4-7, 10:4-11, Board Policy 0167 – Public Participation in Meetings are not understood or just ignored. She indicated that the September 10, 2024 minutes are incorrect and there is no recording of the meeting. She also asked if the positions for job descriptions in P-10 and P-11 will be advertised.

Matthew Chase – has concerns regarding the situation at the pre-k wing of Hannah Caldwell which is closed; about the communication and how it was handled. The students were moved to the gym and the gym was very cold. He asked what the plans of the district are.

Sharish Jones Caesar – Hannah Caldwell students have been uprooted from their classrooms and nothing was communicated to the parents. She asked that you listen to the parents and update the parents – it is a safety issue. The colder temperatures and no heat is an issue.

Michelle Zatta – E-2 curriculum – she reviewed it – 50% reduction of library/Spanish – it was never voted on by the Board.

Karina DaSilva and Samantha Torres – presented their Arts Club Proposal to the Board. A copy of their proposal is appended to the minutes.

Mr. McDowell informed the students and community that the new library has a gallery.

#### Superintendent's Report:

Jarett Makara, senior special agent, Newark field office-US Secret Service-School Safety and Community Outreach – spoke to the Board and community on the following:

- Who is National Center for Missing & Exploited Children?
- Fingerprint cards

- Childhood smart programs
- Online safety programs
- Report to the Cyber Tipline
- National Threat Assessment Center

Mr. Makara answered questions from the Board members and indicated in addition to the student education, there are educational programs for parents and professional development for teachers.

Dr. Benaquista indicated he is excited to bring these initiatives into the district and will share this information with the PTAs.

Employee Highlights: UHS Administrators Mr. Paterno, Mr. Stapleton, Ms. Fiske and Mr. Eickert gave updates on what is going on in the high school. Nick Ferroni spoke about the NJ Hall of Fame.

#### Student Highlights:

Mr. Arminio informed the Board and community that for the 250<sup>th</sup> celebration – they will show the progress of the Township of Union. There will be a logo contest to show Union’s 250<sup>th</sup> celebration and there was an essay on the 250<sup>th</sup> celebration.

Mr. Benaquista announced the winners of the essay contest (essays are appended to the minutes):

#### Grade 4:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place - Ezequiel Rodriguez-Torres (Franklin Elementary School, Mrs. Koon read Ezequil’s essay to the Board and community)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Keara M. Baptiste (Franklin Elementary School)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Nathan McKenzie (Franklin Elementary School)

#### Grade 8:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place – Jamie Rogan (Kawameeh Middle School)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Callie Barnaskas (Kawameeh Middle School)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Ryan Cross (Kawameeh Middle School)

#### Grade 10:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place overall - Guiliana Muscavage; Guiliana read her essay to the Board and community
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Elizabeth Odubanjo
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Anaisa Rodriguez

#### Teachers to Recognize:

- Mr. Penny/Mrs. Richardson – Franklin Elementary School
- Mrs. Damjanovic – Kawameeh Middle School

- Mr. Leone – Kawameeh Middle School
- Mr. Erdman (retired 2024) – Union High School
- Mr. Costello – Union High School

TUPS Open House Nights – Attendees:

- Union High School – 550
- Burnet Middle School – 340
- Kawameeh Middle School – 367
- Jefferson Elementary School – 342
- Battle Hill Elementary School – 308
- Connecticut Farms Elementary School – 270
- Franklin Elementary School – 214
- Hannah Caldwell Elementary School – 416
- Livingston Elementary School – 409
- Washington Elementary School - 291

Dr. Benaquista indicated that the key part of the puzzle is community and parent involvement.

2023-2024 – Assessment Summary Results: Dr. Rodriguez, Ms. Hutchinson, Mr. Cohen, Mr. Wojcik gave a presentation on the following (appended to minutes and uploaded to district website):

1. NJSLA proficiency results and subgroup analysis – Noticing and Trends
  - Spring NJSLA Trend Data – ELA Proficiency, ELA - Change in Level 4 and 5
  - Spring NJSLA Trend Data – Mathematics Proficiency, Math - Change in Level 4 and 5
  - Spring NJSLA Trend Data – Impact of Absenteeism
  - Spring NJSLA Trend Data – Science Proficiency, Science – Change in Level 4 and 5
2. NJSLA Subgroup Data by race, gender, program, science
3. DLM performance data
4. Summary
  - Absenteeism has a noticeable impact on proficiency
  - Lowest levels of proficiency are found in multilingual learners and special education populations, in all subjects (consistent with previous years)
  - In all but five tests, proficiency percentages increased from 2022-2023 to 2023-2024
  - In all but four tests, growth rate from 2022-2023 to 2023-2024 outpaces the State’s growth rate

Supporting U:

- Family Supports – introducing ULearn; Town Hall sessions hosted by building administrators; various additional presentations

- Staff Supports – instruction coaches, Atlas (curriculum), additional supervisory support in World Language/ESL and special education, increased collaboration with staff
- Administrative Supports – engaging with building data, job-specific PD, leadership coaching
- Student Supports – implementation of IntoReading in K-5, Big Ideas Math in 6-8, tutoring opportunities throughout the district with Varsity Tutors, course-specific tutoring opportunities at UHS through Title I, implementation of new I&RS procedures

Dr. Benaquista indicated that chronic absenteeism is impacting schools across the nation. Students are absent for many different reasons; however, students need to come to school and get the support they need. When students attend school, they learn and are in a better position.

Board members commented on the presentation and had discussions concerning same.

Dr. Benaquista indicated if there are any questions, to please email Dr. Rodriguez.

Mrs. Koon spoke about additional library funding – notable expenditures over the last two years include: (a) \$29,958.8 – maker space materials across all school libraries, (b) \$22,632.31 acquiring additional library books, (c) \$1,000 each for BMS< KMS and UHS to establish Holocaust Resource Libraries, (d) \$1,000 librarian – expand libraries offerings, (e) \$50,593 – books, magazine/periodicals.

Dr. Benaquista continued - Who do I contact for the following concerns? classroom practice, student scheduling, discipline, HIB, special education, athletics, transportation, residency/enrollment, food services, buildings and grounds, safety and security, staff – chart shows who to contact (appended to minutes and will be uploaded to district website).

Realignment Update – Ms. Santana informed the Board and community that every committee she attended, she spoke about the special population committee; anyone can be on these committees.

Dr. Benaquista continued with the following - Committees are as follows: Demographic Analysis, Boundary Drawing (School Lines), Community Engagement, Fiscal, Legal, Physical Plant Benefits & Limitations, Implementation and Special Populations.

Residency Investigations Updates for 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years: two judgements – case 1 - \$5000.00, case 2 - \$30,478.76 and one pending judgement – additional hearing scheduled for October 16, 2024 - \$12,023.52 (student withdrew from district). Dr. Benaquista asked the community to inform the district if you know of anyone that attends our schools and does not live in the Township.

Reregistration Update:

- PreK 4 entering kindergarten – 374 students
  - 338 re-registered



- 12 students did not register
- 14 students transferred out of district
- 12 students repeating PreK
- 131 new students to district
- Aid-in-Lieu (transportation reimbursement)
  - 480 students notified
  - 235 re-registered – verified
  - 188 did not re-register (payment withheld until re-registration is completed)
  - 43 did not complete B6T form – nonpublic school transportation application
- Out-of-District Students – deadline extended to October 16, 2024
  - 166 students notified
  - 46 re-registrations - verified

#### HIB Report:

- Reported: October 9, 2024-October 14, 2024 – 5 founded/0 unfounded/0 inconclusive (3 UHS, 1 BMS, 1 BHES)
- Affirm: September 8, 2024-October 8, 2024 – 0

#### Coming soon:

- It's All About U! newsletter – October 2024
- ULearn
- TUPS Parent Engagement Committee
- Into Reading - K-5 Parents – Tuesday, October 22, 2024

#### Education/Student Discipline Committee Resolutions:

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

E-1. *Agenda item reported at October 8, 2024 worksession (Report of HIB-September 18, 2024 to October 8, 2024).*

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

Affirm the Superintendent's determination of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) for the periods September 18, 2024 to October 8, 2024, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

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

Superintendent's Report of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) for the period October 9, 2024 to October 15, 2024, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes (*no vote required; for reporting purposes only*).

#### E-2. APPROVE CURRICULUM

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

- Grades K-1, 4-12 – ELA
- Grades K-5 – Art
- Grades K-5 – Music
- Grades 2-4 – Computer Science
- Grades 6-8 – Math
- Grades 7 – Math Pre-Algebra
- Algebra 1 Math
- Statistics
- Grades 6-8 – Science
- Grade 9 – Environmental Science
- Chemistry (CP/Action)
- Chemistry (Honors)
- Grades 3-4 – Social Studies
- Dance 2
- Grade 8 -Financial Foundations

E-3. APPROVE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL LIBRARIANS (AASL)  
DONATED BOOKS – KAWAMEEH MIDDLE SCHOOL LIBRARY

Approve list of donated books from American Association of School Librarians (AASL) for the Kawameeh Middle School Library, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

E-4. APPROVE THOMAS RICH ASSEMBLY – PARENT PRESENTATION

Approve Thomas Rich LLC assembly for the Township of Union Public Schools parent presentation during the 2024-2025 school year (date TBD) at a cost of \$2,500.00 to be paid for using Title IV funds.

E-5. APPROVE ESEA 2024-2025 CARRYOVER AMOUNTS AND AMEND ESEA  
APPLICATION/ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORTS

Approve the ESEA 2024-2025 carryover amounts according to the final report and permission to amend the ESEA Application and Annual School Reports in EWEG: (1) Title I - \$58,758.00; (2) Title ISIA - \$33,439.00; (3) Title II - \$8,258.00; (4) Title III - \$16,838.00; (5) Title III Immigrants - \$21,733.00; (6) Title IV - \$11,981.00.

E-6. APPROVE TO RE-APPLY FOR NJDOE MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING IN  
SCHOOL GRANTS

Approve to re-apply for the NJDOE Mental Health Screening in Schools Grant for the 2024-2025 school year.

E-7. *Agenda item adopted at October 8, 2024 worksession (PD-Lo Logramos Consulting).*

E-8. APPROVE SCHOOL NURSING SERVICES PLAN

Approve the 2024-2025 Nursing Services Plan, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

E-9. PROCLAIM OCTOBER AS INTERNATIONAL ALPHA DELTA KAPPA MONTH

Proclaim the month of October 2024 as International Alpha Delta Kappa Month, 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: 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 Mr. Cohan, for adoption:

F-1. TREASURER’S REPORT

That the Treasurer’s Report dated September 30, 2024 be accepted.

F-2. SECRETARY’S REPORT

That the Secretary’s Report dated September 30, 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 September 30, 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

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Dated

Pursuant to N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.2(h), we certify that as of September 30, 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. 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 DISTRICT WIDE TRAVEL AND RELATED EXPENSES**

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

*F-7. Agenda item adopted at October 8, 2024 worksession (districtwide student field trip)*

**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
Union High School	2053/Student Council	Local Flower Shop – purchase items for Valentines Day Grams	\$1,500.00 (not to exceed)
Union High School	2053/Student Council	Piryllis/Amazon/Johnny Napkins/Party City/C&R Graphics – purchase customized shirts, decorations and items needed for Power Puff game	\$4,000.00 (not to exceed)
Union High School	2053/Student Council	Amazon, Piryllis Distributors, C&R Graphics, Party City – to purchase items for March Madness Basketball Tournament	\$1,000.00 (not to exceed)
Union High School	2053/Student Council	Party City/Oriental Trading/Home Depot/Amazon – to purchase items for holiday grams (Door Decorating Contest)	\$1,000.00 (not to exceed)
Union High School	2053/Student Council	Amazon, Piryllis Distributors, Carr Event Productions, Home Depot, DJ, Party City, Oriental Trading, Anderson’s – to purchase items for Homecoming Dance	\$4,000.00 (not to exceed)

Union High School	2053/Student Council	Party City/Amazon/Oriental Trading/Home Depot – to purchase items for Homecoming Game	\$1,500.00 (not to exceed)
Union High School	2012/Prom	Grand Marquis – prom venue	\$65,000.00 (not to exceed)
Union High School	2033/Marching Band	Pine Forest – band camp	\$11,800.00

**F-9B. APPROVE FUNDRAISERS**

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

Event Name	Date	Purpose
Chipotle Fundraiser World’s Best Chocolate Fundraiser Leading Edge Fundraiser Clothing Store Fundraiser	October 16, 2024- June 30, 2025	UHS Softball – to raise fund for senior day, end of year banquet, equipment
Pot of Gold Fundraiser	March 28, 2025	UHS/Dance Team – to raise funds for team gear, costumes, competition, travel fees and team apparel
Gertrude Hawk Fundraiser	October 16, 2024- May 28, 2025	UHS Dance Team – to raise funds for team gear, costumes, competition, travel fees and team apparel
Blast Athletics	October 16, 2024- June 30, 2025	UHS Cheerleading – to raise funds for new uniforms, cheer gear, competition, senior night, cheer camps
Boograms	October 16-25, 2024	UHS Dance Team – to raise funds for team gear, costumes, competition, travel fees and apparel
Rita’s Italian Ice Sale	October 16, 2024- August 30, 2025	UHS Cheerleading – to raise funds for new uniforms, cheer clinic, senior night, cheer gear
Bake Sale/Shake Sale	October 16, 2024- June 30, 2025	UHS Cheerleading – to raise funds for new uniforms, cheer clinic, senior night, cheer gear
Valentine’s Day Grams	February 14, 2025	UHS Student Council – to raise funds for future events
Snack/Chocolate Sales	October 16, 2024- June 30, 2025	UHS Student Council – to raise funds for future events
Powder Puff Football Game	May 2025 (TBD)	UHS Student Council – to raise funds for events
March Madness	March 7, 2025	UHS Student Council – to raise funds for future events
Homecoming Game	October 25, 2024	UHS Student Council – to raise funds for future events
Homecoming Dance	October/November 2024 (TBD)	UHS Student Council – to raise funds for future events
Holiday Grams	December 2024	UHS Student Council – to raise funds for future events
Door Decorating Gram	December 22, 2024	UHS Student Council – to raise funds for future events
Light Up Hallways, Valentines Telegrams, Read-a-Thon, Walk-a-Thon, Flower Petal Pots, Bake Sale	December 1, 2024- June 15, 2025	Washington/Student Council – to raise funds for charity-philanthropic causes

School Store	December 1, 2024- June 15, 2025	Washington/Student Council – to raise funds for charity-philanthropic causes
World’s Best Chocolate	October 16, 2024- June 24, 2025	UHS/Softball – to raise funds for end of year events; senior day
T-shirt Sale	September – October 2024	UHS/Farmer Fam/UMatter – to raise funds for fall activities
Farmer Social	September 6, 2024	UHS/Farmer Fam/UMatter - to raise funds for fall activities
T-Shirt and Graduation Law Sign Sale	October 16, 2024- June 30, 2025	UHS/Senior Class – to raise funds for senior events
Chipotle, Dine to Donate, Restaurant Fundraisers	October 16, 2024- June 30, 2025	UHS/Senior Class – to raise funds for senior day, senior events, equipment for events
Mr. UHS	October 16, 2024- June 30, 2025	UHS/Senior Class – to raise funds for end of year senior events
Fashion Show	October 16, 2024- June 30, 2025	UHS/Senior Class – to raise funds for end of year senior events
Dine to Donate	October 16, 2024- June 30, 2025	UHS/Junior Class – to raise funds for junior class
Snack Sale	October 16, 2024- June 30, 2025	UHS/Junior Class – to raise funds for junior class
Class of 2026 Apparel Sale	October 16, 2024- June 30, 2025	UHS/Junior Class – to raise funds for the junior class
Snack Sale	October 16, 2024- June 30, 2025	UHS/Sophomore Class – to raise funds for class of 2027 activities
Snack Sale	October 16, 2024- June 30, 2025	UHS/Prom – to raise funds for Prom
Pie a Teacher	October 16, 2024- June 30, 2025	UHS/Prom – to raise funds for prom
Soda Machine	October 16, 2024- June 30, 2025	UHS/Prom – to raise funds for prom
Candy Gram	October 16, 2024- June 30, 2025	UHS/Prom – to raise funds for prom
Bake Sale	October 16, 2024- June 30, 2025	UHS/Prom – to raise funds for prom
Apparel Sale – T-shirts	October 16, 2024- June 30, 2025	UHS/Prom – to raise funds for prom
Pink Ribbon Sale for Breast Cancer	October 28, 2024- November 1, 2024	UHS/National Honor Society – to raise funds for Breast Cancer awareness month
Little Bites, Chips and Cookies Sale	November 2024- May 2025	UHS/National Honor Society – to raise funds for end of year activities
Donations for Everything but the Turkey and Giving Tree	November 1- December 20, 2024	UHS/Farmer Fam/UMatter – to aid TUPS families in need during the holiday season
Step Challenge	October 16, 2024- June 30, 2025	UHS/Prom – to raise funds for the prom
Candy Grams, Flower Sales, Snack Sales	October 16, 2024- June 30, 2025	BMS/PBSIS-School Store – to raise funds for PBSIS events and rewards
Thanksgiving Turkey’s for Gratitude	November 18, 2024	Jefferson/PBSIS – to raise funds for PBSIS rewards
Pink Ribbons for Breast Cancer Awareness	October 23-24, 2024	Jefferson/PBSIS – to raise funds for PBSIS rewards
Bake Sale (weekly)	November 1, 2024- June 15, 2025	KMS/Art Club – to raise funds for art show and supplement travel for club trips
Bake Sales (weekly)	October 16, 2024- June 24, 2025	KMS/Spanish Club – to raise funds for cultural experiences

Money Dolly Virtual Fundraising	November 1-28, 2024	KMS/Music Dept. – to raise funds for year-end competition trip
Bake/Snack Sales	November 1, 2024- June 1, 2024	KMS/Music Dept. – to raise funds for year-end competition trip
Various Fundraisers	November 1, 2024- June 30, 2025	KMS/Student Council – to raise funds for student council events, apparel and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade dance
Bake Sale	November 1, 2024- June 30, 2025	KMS/Student Council - to raise funds for student council events, apparel and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade dance
Turkey Trot/Cupid Shuffle/Color Run/Rock Paper Scissors Day	November 1, 2024- June 30, 2025	KMS/Student Council – to raise funds for student council events, apparel and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade dance
Penny Wars/Guessing Game Jars	December 1, 2024- June 30, 2025	KMS/Student Council – to raise funds for student council events, apparel and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade dance
Pajama Days/Spirit Week Special Days	October 16, 2024- June 30, 2025	KMS/Student Council – to raise funds for student council events, apparel and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade dance
Pasta Night/Karaoke Night	December 1, 2024- June 30, 2025	KMS/Student Council – to raise funds for student council events, apparel and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade dance
Car Wash	December 1, 2024- June 30, 2025	KMS/Student Council – to raise funds for student council events, apparel and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade dance
Talent Show/Dance-A-Thon	December 1, 2024- June 30, 2025	KMS/Student Council – to raise funds for student council events, apparel and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade dance
Photo Backdrop Pics/Photo Scavenger Hunt	October 16, 2024- June 30, 2025	KMS/Student Council – to raise funds for student council events, apparel and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade dance
Sponsorships/Donations (Hearts for...)	November 1, 2024- June 30, 2025	KMS/Student Council – to raise funds for student council events, apparel and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade dance
GRAMS (Holiday, candy, birthday)	November 1, 2024- June 30, 2025	KMS/Student Council – to raise funds for student council events, apparel and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade dance
Movie Night	December 1, 2024- June 30, 2024	KMS/Student Council – to raise funds for student council events, apparel and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade dance
Pretzel/Hot Chocolate Sale, Cookies/Hot Chocolate, Donuts/lemonade/iced tea/ice pops	October 16, 2024- Jun3 30, 2025	KMS/Student Council – to raise funds for student council events, apparel and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade dance
Movie/Crafts	November 1- December 30, 2024	UHS/Key Club – to raise funds for yearly convention
Bake Sales	October 16, 2024- June 30, 2025	UHS/Junior Class – to raise funds for the Junior Class
T-Shirt Sale	October 16, 2024- June 30, 2025	UHS/Flag Football – to raise funds for end of year activities and awards
Blast Athletics – Online Fundraiser	October 16, 2024- June 30, 2025	UHS/Flag Football – to raise funds for end of year activities
T-Shirt Sale	October 16-25, 2024	Connecticut Farms – to raise funds to have a hands-on learning experience with chicks in classroom

Snack Sale	October 16, 2024- June 15, 2025	UHS/Cross Country – to raise funds for end of year awards ceremony
Online Fundraiser – Blast Athletics	November 13, 2024- June 24, 2025	UHS/Wrestling – raise funds for clothing, end of year party, summer wrestling camp
Clothing Sale	November 13, 2024- June 24, 2025	UHS/Wrestling – to raise funds for gear, end of year, summer wrestling camp

**F-9C. ACCEPT DONATIONS**

Accept the following donations:

From	For Use By	\$/Item
Reading for Education	Washington Elementary School	\$96.46
Shutterfly LLC	Washington Elementary School	\$889.58
Groundwork Elizabeth – UC STEM Garden Grant Award 2024	Livingston Elementary School	\$750.00

**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 October), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-11. APPROVE MASTER COLLABORATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT – EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION OF NEW JERSEY**

Approve the Master Collaborative Educational Services Agreement between the district and the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2030, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-12A. APPROVE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE BUDGET AMOUNT WORKSHEET (M-1)**

Approve Annual Maintenance Budget Amount Worksheet (M-1) pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:26A, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-12B. APPROVE COMPREHENSIVE MAINTENANCE PLAN REPORT**

Approve Comprehensive Maintenance Plan Report (FY24, budgeted FY25 and Planned FY26), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-13. APPROVE NONPUBLIC SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE PROGRAM SPENDING PLAN – UCESC**

Approve the Union County Educational Services Commission (UCESC) Nonpublic School Technology Initiative Program spending plan for St. Michael School located within the district for the 2024-2025 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-14. APPROVE SUBMISSION OF FY 2025 IDEA GRANT AMENDMENT 1**

Approve submission of FY2025 IDEA Grant Amendment 1 to allocate the \$19,109.00 unexpended nonpublic funds from the FY 2024 IDEA Grant.



**F-15. APPROVE CHILDREN’S SPECIALIZED HOSPITAL – SPEECH EVALUATION**

Approve Children’s Specialized Hospital to provide a speech evaluation at the rate of \$713.00 and an occupational therapy evaluation, at the rate of \$660.00 (no to exceed \$1,373.00) for the 2024-2025 school year [Account Fund #11-000-219-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

*F-16. Agenda item adopted at October 8, 2024 worksession (Webster Bank-Lease Purchase Loan-Boilers)*

*F-17. Agenda item adopted at October 8, 2024 worksession (Bond Counsel-Wilentz Goldman & Spitzer).*

**F-18. APPROVE BAYADA HOME HEALTH CARE – NURSING SERVICES**

Approve Bayada Home Health Care to provide nursing services, at the rate of \$68.00/hr. for RN and \$64.00/hr. for LPN (not to exceed \$50,000.00) for the 2024-2025 school year [Account Fund #11-000-216-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

*F-Atty. For informational purposes only – vote not required.* List of legal services paid as of September 17, 2024 for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**DISCUSSION:**

Ms. Carbonell thanked all the companies that donated to the district.

**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 Mrs. Scott-Hayden, seconded by Mrs. Minneci, 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 non-public information appended to the minutes.

*O-2. Agenda item adopted at October 8, 2024 worksession (Trunk or Treat-Jefferson Parking Lot)*

**O-3. APPROVE REQUEST FROM UHS PTA – UHS PRACTICE FIELD**

Approve request from UHSPTA to use the Union High School practice field for the Junior bonfire on Thursday, October 17, 2024 (rain date Thursday, October 24, 2024) from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**O-4. APPROVE REQUEST FROM VAUXHALL HISTORICAL SOCIETY – JEFFERSON SCHOOL**

Approve request from Vauxhall Historical Society to use of Jefferson School, the presence of the UHS ROTC to post colors and lead the Pledge of Allegiance, the use of 100 chairs, a podium, a microphone and 6 tables on Saturday, November 9, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to honor veterans from the Vauxhall community who have served in the military from WWI to present, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**O-5. APPROVE REQUEST FROM TOWNSHIP OF UNION EDUCATION FOUNDATION – WALKWAY OF HONOR**

Approve request from Township of Union Education Foundation to hold a dedication ceremony at the Walkway of Honor at Union High School (outside of the North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street entrance) on Wednesday, November 13, 2024 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. (in case of inclement weather, request is to hold ceremony inside the lobby of Union High School), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**O-6. APPROVE REQUEST FROM UNION RAMS POP WARNER FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION – FOOTBALL FACILITY**

Approve request from the Union Rams Pop Warner Football Association to use the UHS football field and facility for the league playoffs on Sunday, October 20, 2024 and Sunday, October 27, 2024, 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:** None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Personnel Committee Resolutions:**

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following resolutions were moved by Mrs. Minneci, seconded by Mrs. Scott-Hayden, 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. APPROVE SUBSTITUTE LISTS**

Approve Substitute Lists for the 2024-2025 school year.

Name	Position	Rate
Ilsia Alfaro-Garcia	Sub-custodian	\$16.00/hr.
Gary Volturo	Sub-custodian	\$16.00/hr.
Anjelika Vayas	Sub-teacher per Mr. Rago	\$140.00/day
Samuel Aguilefu	Daily sub	\$140.00/day
Makaia Morris	Daily sub	\$140.00/day
Kaitlyn McDermott	Daily sub	\$140.00/day
Alejandra Zapata*	Daily sub	\$140.00/day
Nayla Galeano*	Daily sub	\$140.00/day
Philip Polchinski**	Daily sub	\$140.00/day
Barbara Nicholls**	Daily sub	\$140.00/day
Nicole Guzman	Substitute Administrative Assistant	\$28.00/hr.

\*Pending paperwork approval.

\*\*teaching certificate

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

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

Name	Position	Location	Eff. Date	Reason
Lorraine Gardner	Café/playground aide	Washington	9/20/2024	Resignation
Teresa Giasi	Behavior Technician	Battle Hill	10/12/2024	Resignation
Giuseppe Sorbara	Plumber	Buildings and Grounds Dept	9/11/2024	Resignation
Pam Tower	Special ed teacher	Kawameeh	2/1/2025	Retirement

**P-3B. APPROVE LEAVES**

Approve leaves for the following staff:

Name	Position	Location	Leave Dates	Leave Type
Bonnie Caverly	1st grade teacher	Livingston	1/6/2025-3/31/2025	Paid medical leave
Katie Dowson	English teacher	Burnet	12/16/2024-5/22/2025	Paid child rearing leave followed by unpaid FMLA/NJFLA
Diana Prieto	Counselor	UHS	10/1/2024-11/11/2024	Paid medical leave
Janet Whitehouse	Teacher	Jefferson	Intermittent 9/30/2024-6/25/2025	Intermittent paid FMLA
John Boyd	Carpenter	Buildings and Grounds Dept.	Intermittent 10/1/2024-10/1/2025	Intermittent paid FMLA

Alexis Vigil	1 <sup>st</sup> grade teacher	Washington	New return date 2/3/2025	Unpaid FMLA
Donna Senkiw	Secretary	BMS	Intermittent 11/1/2024- 6/15/2024	Paid intermittent FMLA
Laura Cococcia	Science teacher	BMS	10/7/2024- 11/25/2024	Paid 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 CHANGE OF SALARY CLASS NO. 4**

Approve Change of Salary Class #4, effective September 1, 2024, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**P-6. APPROVE ATTENDANCE AT VARIOUS MEETINGS – TRANSITION PROGRAMS**

Approve Sarah McCulloh, district School Social Worker, Natalie Mauriello, district Schol Social Worker, and/or Lauren Kohn, district teacher, to attend/visit various meetings/locations as part of our transition program, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**P-7. APPROVE DISTRICT COMMUNICATION LIAISON – SPEKHARDT**

Approve William Spekhardt as the communication liaison to local law enforcement agencies for the 2024-2025 school year, at no cost to the district.

**P-8. APPROVE UPDATED STUDENT ACTIVITIES ACCOUNT SIGNATORIES**

Approved updated Student Activities Account Signatories for the 2024-2025 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**P-9. APPROVE JOB DESCRIPTION – PERSONNEL SPECIALIST**

Approve Job Description – Personnel Specialist, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**P-10. APPROVE JOB DESCRIPTION – CAFETERIA AIDE**

Approve Job Description – Cafeteria Aide, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**P-11. APPROVE ATTENDANCE – MUJC MEETINGS**

Approve Instructional Coaches Melissa Glenn, Joana Glaser, Jessica Barbieri, Bernadine Santoro, Lauren Whitford and Dana Bobertz to attend meetings at the Morris Union Jointure Commission (MUJC), at no cost to the district, for the 2024-2025 school year.

**P-12. APPROVE RESOLUTION REGARDING FITNESS FOR DUTY EXAMINATION**

Approve resolution regarding fitness for duty examination, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**P-13. APPROVE JOB DESCRIPTION – ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

Approve Job Description – Associate Director of Information Technology, 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:** None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Policy Committee:**

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and the Policy Committee, the following policies were moved by Mr. Cohan, seconded by Mrs. Minneci, for **FINAL READING AND ADOPTION:**

**POL-1. POLICY 3433.1 – VACATION BLACKOUT DATES**

Approve Policy 3433.1 – Vacation Blackout Dates (Teaching Staff Members), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**POL-2. POLICY 4433.1 – VACATION BLACKOUT DATES**

Approve Policy 4433.1 – Vacation Blackout Dates (Support Staff Members), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**DISCUSSION:**

Ms. Santana informed the Board and community that leadership met with individuals and made minor changes collaboratively. Mr. Cohan informed the Board that the changes were not substantive and did not change the meaning of the paragraph.

**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**

**Residency Committee Resolutions:**

Mrs. Minneci indicated that there was a residency hearing and another student will be walked on tonight and removed from the rolls.

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

**R-1. APPROVE TO REMOVE STUDENTS**

Approve to remove the following students from the attendance rolls as the students have been determined to be ineligible to attend the Township of Union Public Schools as a resident student:

Student No.	School
#300055	Burnet Middle School – 7 <sup>th</sup> grade
#310010	Burnet Middle School – 6 <sup>th</sup> grade
#246043	Out-of-District – 12 <sup>th</sup> grade
#381026	Livingston Elementary School – PreK

**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**

Mrs. Minneci reported on the following:

**R-2. 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
#350816	Hannah Caldwell Elementary School – 2 <sup>nd</sup> grade
#340928	Hannah Caldwell Elementary School – 3 <sup>rd</sup> grade
#340927	Hannah Caldwell Elementary School – 3 <sup>rd</sup> grade

*For informational purposes only (no vote required):* The following totals are as of the September 17, 2024 Board meeting (2024-2025 school year):

Students Removed:	0
Students Voluntarily Transferred:	1

**Approval of Bills:**

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, and moved by Mrs. Scott-Hayden, seconded by Mrs. Conteh-Makey, 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:

Ms. Santana recognized members of the community and thanked them.

Mrs. Conteh-Mackey thanked all who have volunteered for the realignment committees and thanked the additional people who volunteered for the special population committee.

Mr. Cohan acknowledged the challenges of Hannah Caldwell. Dr. Benaquista advised the Board that a crew worked from Saturday through Monday. The district is now waiting on a mechanical engineer. Once we figure out where the intrusion is, it will be fixed and done right.

#### New Business:

Ms. Santana – please join a PTA. Freshmen and seniors – if you take a bus, there is a 3 hour delay because of testing.

#### Comments from the Public

Virginia Jeffries – expressed her concerns about the OPMA, the district’s Policy 0167- public participation.

Juliana Mascateh – informed the Board that AP exam costs are not covered by the district and should have been stipulated. It is another burden on students.

Susan Lipstein – thank you for the kind words for the Ed Foundation. She also mentioned that there is a disconnect with the community, staff, parents – meetings should also be held on Zoom. She informed the Board that a parent contacted her concerning the parent’s child needed to retake her test and both cafeterias were filled. The district needs to target on what the kids don’t know; 25% of the students were not proficient; she is curious to see how many students passed. Dr. Benaquista asked Mrs. Lipstein to ask the parent to contact the principal.

Andrew P. (12<sup>th</sup> grade) – informed the Board that the AP exams are \$103.00 per exam and was a major blow to students. If you withdraw from the class, it doesn’t look good on your transcript. He asked that the district reconsider and allocate funds for AP exams.

Dr. Benaquista indicated that Mrs. Koon and Dr. Rodriguez will look into this and report back to the Education Committee.

Dr. Barbara Cedar indicated that her grandson is a special education student and attends Jefferson. He doesn’t have a permanent teacher and this is a violation of State and federal law and asked what the district is doing about this.

Jill Hall – the realignment is near and dear to her heart and she is very optimistic. She also indicated that the psycho/social needs of the students need to be part of it also. You don't define success for our students through data.

Sol Intencio – asked to bring Zoom back to the meetings because it is a great tool to include more community and parents and get the community involved.

Lea (12<sup>th</sup> grade) – asked to make our schools more inclusive; AP Testing costs – you need to think about the financial difficulties on families; there should be no costs for students' dreams.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the Board in public session it was moved by Mrs. Minneci, seconded by Mr. Nasta, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:57 p.m.

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

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

*Yolanda Koon*

YOLANDA KOON  
BOARD SECRETARY



