

TOWNSHIP OF UNION BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – AUGUST 27, 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, August 27, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the Administration Building, 2369 Morris Avenue, Union, New Jersey pursuant to the notice sent to each member.

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

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Elsie Conteh-Mackey, Mr. Ronnie McDowell, Mrs. Nancy Minneci, Mr. Greg Nasta, Ms. Chastity Santana,

ABSENT AT ROLL CALL:

Ms. Dixiana Carbonell (6:37 p.m.), Mr. Michael Cohan, Mrs. Kimberly Scott-Hayden, Mrs. Mary Lynn Williams (6:06 p.m.)

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Dr. Gerald Benaquista, Ms. Marissa McKenzie, Mrs. Yolanda Koon

ALSO PRESENT:

Mr. Christopher Buggy, Esq., Yolanda Greene, Esq.

Mrs. Minneci led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Minneci 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. Minneci, seconded by Mrs. Conteh-Mackey, that the Board go into Executive Session at 6:02 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: student matters, 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: Mrs. Conteh-Mackey, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Minneci,
Mr. Nasta, Ms. Santana

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

The Board returned to public session at 6:59 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 6:59 p.m.

AYE: Ms. Carbonell, Mr. Cohan (via Zoom), Mrs. Conteh-Mackey, Mr. McDowell,
Mrs. Minneci, Mr. Nasta, Mrs. Williams, Ms. Santana

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Approval of Minutes:

Moved by Mrs. Minneci, seconded by Mr. Nasta, that the following minutes be adopted:

1. July 30, 2024 – regular meeting
2. July 30, 2024 – executive session #1 and #2

DISCUSSION:

None

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Mrs. Williams

MOTION CARRIED

Communications:

LETTER OF RESIGNATION – BRITO

Letter of resignation from Juscelina Brito, bus aide-Transportation Department, effective August 2, 2024.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION – CIGOL

Letter of resignation from Karin Cigol, paraprofessional-Hannah Caldwell Elementary School (pre-school), effective September 1, 2024.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION – FILIPPONE

Letter of resignation of Nicole Filippone, preschool special education teacher-Hannah Caldwell Elementary School, effective October 5, 2024.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION – MARQUES-ALBANO

Letter of resignation from Sandra Marques-Albano, paraprofessional-Hannah Caldwell Elementary School, effective August 2, 2024.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION – VULTURO

Letter of resignation from Gary Vulturo, 2nd shift custodian-Battle Hill Elementary School, effective September 9, 2024.

REQUEST FOR INTERMITTENT LEAVE – BRUNS MEYERS

Request for paid FMLA intermittent leave from Kathleen Bruns Meyers, PreK teacher-Livingston Elementary School, September 1, 2024-June 20, 2025.

REQUEST FOR UPDATED INTERMITTENT LEAVE – VINCENT

Request for updated paid FMLA intermittent leave from Jaclyn Vincent, kindergarten teacher-Connecticut Farms Elementary School, September 2, 2024-June 20, 2025.

REQUEST FOR INTERMITTENT LEAVE – KOZEN

Request for paid FMLA intermittent leave from Olga Kozen, fourth grade teacher-Connecticut Farms Elementary School, September 3, 2024-June 20, 2025.

REQUEST FOR INTERMITTENT LEAVE – ZURKA

Request for paid FMLA intermittent leave from Christine Zurka, paraprofessional-Battle Hill Elementary School, September 1, 2024-June 20, 2025.

REQUEST FOR INTERMITTENT LEAVE – WEBER

Request for paid FMLA intermittent leave, 4th grade teacher-Battle Hill Elementary School, September 3, 2024-June 20, 2025.

REQUEST FOR INTERMITTENT LEAVE – MATTHEWS

Request for paid FMLA intermittent leave from Theresa Matthews, supervisor-science, September 3, 2024-June 30, 2025.

REQUEST FOR INTERMITTENT LEAVE – MUSARRA

Request for paid FMLA intermittent leave from Marcy Musarra, special education teacher-Union High School, September 10, 2024-June 30, 2025.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE – PATRICCO

Request for unpaid FMLA (not to exceed 8 days) from Elena Patricco, kindergarten teacher-Livingston Elementary School, September 3, 2024-April 30, 2024.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE – SCARPATI

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

REQUEST FOR LEAVE – PLATT

Request for paid FMLA leave from Gwen Platt, PreK interventionist-districtwide, September 3, 2024-October 7, 2024.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE – BOSSARD

Request for paid medical leave from Althea Bossard, principal-Union High School, July 29, 2024-August 31, 2024.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE – PIERRE

Request for paid FMLA leave from Marc Pierre, driver-Transportation Department, August 19, 2024-TBD.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE – YAWNICK

Request for paid FMLA leave from Marilyn Yawnick, bus aide-Transportation Department, September 9, 2024-June 20, 2025.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE – INGRASSIA

Request for paid FMLA leave from Mary Ingrassia, teacher assistant-Union High School, September 3, 2024-June 20, 2025.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE – DIONISIO

Request for paid FMLA leave from Nancy Dionisio, occupational therapist-Washington Elementary School, September 16, 2024-December 1, 2024.

Comments from Public (on resolutions):

Sol Antencio stated that when special education teachers go on long-term leave, whoever takes their place, the person should be able to cover the class and follow the IEP. Dr. Benaquista stated the person you are referring to is on intermittent leave but if a teacher goes on long-term leave, a long-term substitute who is a certified teacher will cover the classes.

Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Benaquista presented his Superintendent Report; same is appended to the minutes and a summary is below:

HIB – there are no incident reports for the period of August 1, 2024-August 27, 2024.

Randi Hutchinson and Dana Bobertz presented Instructional Coaching – what is the role of an Instructional Coach – they partner with teachers to help them improve teaching and learning so students are more successful.

Burnet Middle School – ELA Coaching Cycle 2023-2024: (1) Common Assessments – students at each grade level took 3 common assessments. Common assessments assess the same standards to allow teachers to track growth and reteach where appropriate; (2) Vocabulary Acquisition – students complete 3 vocabulary units a marking period and are assessed after each unit; (3) Effective IXL Integration – at PLCs, teachers discuss and decide on core skills to assign and assess on the IXL platform, (4) Data-Focused PLCs – meetings helped teachers adjust their

spacing, better align assignments to NJSLA-ELA, create space to share new strategies and better understand and reflect on student data.

ELA and Math 6 Intervention – after beginning of year IXL testing and examination of NJSLA scores, 40 ELA and 40 Math students were identified for pull-out intervention twice a week during phsyed.

School year 2024-2025 – 1 ELA instructional coach for grades 6-8, 1 math instruction coach for grades 6-8, 2 ELA instructional coaches for grades K-4.

The future – math coaches in K-4, 5 and 9-12, ELA coaches in 5 and 9-12, ongoing training for instruction coaches.

Dr. Benaquista gave an update of summer re-registration update:

- PreK 4 entering kindergarten – 374 students
 - 289 re-registered
 - 71 students did not register
 - 10 students transferred out
 - 4 students repeating PreK 4
- Aid-in-Lieu (transportation reimbursement) – 480 students notified
 - 191 re-registered and verified
 - 289 did not re-register (payment will be withheld until re-registration is completed)
- Out-of-district students
 - 176 students notified
 - 17 re-registrations verified

Isabella Scocozza spoke about the TUPS Summer Scholar Programs 2024 for Title I at UHS, Burnet, Jefferson, Franklin and Hannah Caldwell. – 15 days for elementary and 20 days for high school; four days a week; 4 hours a day – 600 students participated and 20 high school students volunteered and assisted the teachers for community service hours. Listed curriculum used – IXL, iready, Scholastic Lit Camp and Hand 2 Mind Math. There are pre and post assessments, along with end of the program parent surveys.

Dr. Benaquista informed the Board and community that September 3, 2024 is the TUPS 2024 Opening of Schools Convocation at UHS auditorium. September 4, 2024 – is staff professional development. September 5, 2024 – first day of school for students and staff and student early dismissal on September 5th and 6th.

HIB – no incidents to report or affirm.

Student Safety Data System was reported by Dr. Benaquista and a copy is located at E-2 on the agenda.

2023-2024 ACCESS for MLLs Report – Multilingual Learner (ML) – previously called English language Learner (ELL), refers to a student whose first language is something other than English and qualified for bilingual services.

English as a Second Language (ESL) – is a type of bilingual program in which students receive language and academic instruction with the goal of English language proficiency.

WIDA (World Class Instructional Design and Assessment()) is an educational organization that provides English language proficiency assessments and resources for educators.

ELD Standards and Framework (English Language Development) standards and frameworks outline the language skills and competencies that MLs need to develop at various stages of their learning and strategies to use to support those skills.

ACCESS – ACCESS is WIDA’s assessment used as the official NJ standardized assessment for MLs that measure students’ proficiency in English across listening, speaking, reading and writing skills.

Dr. Benaquista informed the Board and community that the buildings and grounds department got a lot accomplished with less overtime. A PowerPoint of completed projects were shown.

Anthony Cirella stated there were wiring projects, roofing issues and a lot was done in house. Everyday is a challenge but with the right people we will get it done. Ms. McKenzie stated no overtime is huge and we have a lot of talent here. Dr. Benaquista stated Anthony cares about the district; he leads and they follow.

We are improving and doing it right. We will not stop until we get it right.

It’s All about U – a video was shown.

Education/Student Discipline Committee Resolutions:

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

E-1. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT OF HIB

Superintendent’s Report of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) for the period August 1 to August 27, 2024 (*no incidents to report*), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes (*no vote required; for reporting purposes only*).

E-2. APPROVE STUDENT SAFETY DATA SYSTEM REPORT

Approve the Student Safety Data System Report (formerly Violence and Vandalism Report) (SSDS) for period two (January 1-June 30, 2024) of the 2023-2024 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

E-3. APPROVE CURRICULUM

Approve the following curricula, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes: (a) Grade K-Mathematics; (b) Grade 1-Mathematics, (c) Grade 2-Mathematics, (d) Grade 3-Mathematics, (e) Grade 4-Mathematics, (f) Grade 5-Mathematics.

E-4. APPROVE MEDICAL SERVICES HANDBOOK AND SCHOOL HEALTH STANDING ORDERS

Approve Medical Services Handbook and School Health Standing Orders for the 2024-2025 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

E-5. APPROVE HOMESCHOOLED STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN SPORTS

Approve four homeschooled students (E.H., M.H., M.S., A.S.) to participate in sports at Union High School for the 2024-2025 school year.

E-6. APPROVE RIVERSIDE INSIGHTS

Approve Riverside Insights to provide the purchase of COGAT 7 Screener Online (Cognitive Abilities Test) for grades K-5 during the 2024-2025 school year, in the amount of \$36,706.00 (to be paid for using Title IV funds account #20456), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

E-7. APPROVE STAFF/BENEFITS PAID FOR USING ESEA AND/OR SCHOOL BASED MENTAL HEALTH GRANT FUNDS

Approve district staff/benefits for the 2024-2025 school year to be paid for using ESEA and/or School Based Mental Health Grant Funds, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

E-8. APPROVE PMH CONSULTING SERVICES – COACHING SESSIONS

Approve PMH Consulting Services to provide executive and leadership coaching sessions for district administrators during the 2024-2025 school year, in the amount of \$9,100.00 (to be paid for using Title II funds account #8434), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

E-9. APPROVE LANGUAGE AND LITERACY ASSOCIATES – MULTILINGUAL AND MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION

Approve Language and Literacy Associates for multilingual and multicultural education to conduct professional development for EL teachers that focus on the World-class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) framework for September 4, 2024, at a cost of \$2,000.00 (to be paid for using title III funds account #18701), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

E-10. APPROVE NJPSA/FEA – PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Approve NJPSA/FEA to coordinate Empowering Multilingual Learners: Strategies for CST Members and ESL teachers' professional development for EL teachers on October 14, 2024, at a cost of \$2,850.00 (to be paid for using Title III funds account #18701),

E-11. APPROVE GOMO – LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Approve GOMO to conduct leadership training for administration during the 2024-2025 school year as needed, at a cost not to exceed \$7,500.00 (to be paid for using the School Based Mental Health Grant funds account #20467), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

E-12. APPROVE ACCEPTANCE OF NJPIEP GRANT AWARD

Approve the acceptance of the New Jersey Preschool Inclusive Education Project (NJPIEP) for the 2024-2025 school year. This grant award will provide high quality resources, targeted technical assistance, professional development to improve preschool inclusive education practices within the district, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

E-13. APPROVE APPLICATION – YEAR 3 SCHOOL BASED MENTAL HEALTH GRANT AWARD

Approve district to apply for the Year 3 School Based Mental Health Grant Award for the period of January 2025-December 2025.

DISCUSSION:

None

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Fiscal and Planning Committee Resolutions:

Ms. Carbonell stated that F-9c and F-30 will be voted on after executive session.

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

F-1. TREASURER’S REPORT

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

F-2. SECRETARY’S REPORT

That the Secretary’s Report dated July 31, 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 July 31, 2024 no budgetary line item account has obligations and payments (contractual orders) which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the district Board of education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8 and 18:22-8.1.

/s/ Yolanda Koon
Yolanda Koon, Board Secretary

Dated

Pursuant to N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.2(h), we certify that as of July 31, 2024 after review of the secretary’s monthly financial report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials that to the best of our knowledge no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.2(d)3 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district’s financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year. This certification is solely based on the information provided by the School Business Administrator and Board Secretary and is assumed by the Board to be correct.

F-4. APPROVE APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS

Approve appropriation transfers in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-5. 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. 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) – none as of this date

F-9B. APPROVE FUNDRAISERS

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

Event Name	Date	Purpose
Snap Fundraiser	September 1-15, 2024	UHS/girls soccer – to raise funds for equipment/awards/end of year party

F-9C. Agenda item tabled until after executive session (accept donations).

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 August), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-11. APPROVE MARIE H. KATZENBACH SCHOOL OF THE DEAF – EVALUATION

Approve Marie H. Katzenbach School of the Deaf to provide Classroom Acoustical Evaluation with report, at the rate of \$750.00 per evaluation (not to exceed \$1,500.00) for the 2024-2025 school year [Account Fund #11-000-219-320-01-19/7074], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-12. APPROVE APPLICATION – NEW JERSEY CHILD ASSAULT PREVENTION

Approve the district application for the New Jersey Child Assault Prevention 2024/2025 Grant Application – K-8 CAP’s Bullying Prevention Program, for Burnet Middle School, at no cost to the district, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-13a. APPROVE SCHOOL-BASED APPLICATION – SPECIAL OLYMPICS UNIFIED CHAMPION SCHOOLS GRANT

Approve the school-based applications to the Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools 2023-2024 Grant, for the following schools: (a) Union Senior High School - \$5,000.00, (b) Burnet Middle School - \$3,000.00, (c) Kawameeh Middle School - \$1,700.00, (d) Jefferson Elementary School - \$600.00.

F-13b. APPROVE ACCEPTANCE OF GRANTS AWARDED – SPECIAL OLYMPICS NEW JERSEY

Approve acceptance of the grants awarded from Special Olympics New Jersey – Unified Champion Schools 2024-2025 to (a) Union High School - \$5,000.00.

F-14. APPROVE ADDITIONAL WBL/CBI SITES

Approve the Farmer’s Crafty Corner and Print Shop, located at UHS, to be added to the previously approved WBL/CBI sites in district for the 2024-2025 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-15. APPROVE NEW JERSEY COALITION FOR INCLUSIVE EDUCATION – PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Approve New Jersey Coalition for Inclusive Education to provide professional development for the 2024-2025 school year at the rate of \$1,250.00 for a half-day and \$2,000.00 for a full day, not to exceed \$4,500.00 [Account Fund #11-000-219-320-02-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-16. ACCEPT NONPUBLIC SCHOOL NURSING AID FROM NJDOE

Accept Nonpublic School Nursing Aid from the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) for the 2024-2025 school year as follows: (a) The Patrick School Inc. - \$9,230.00, (b) St. Michael’s School - \$42,640.00 and (c) United Academy of Union - \$27,040.00 [for a total of \$78,910.00], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-17. ACCEPT NONPUBLIC SECURITY AID FROM NJDOE

Accept Nonpublic Security Aid from the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) for the 2024-2025 school year as follows: (a) The Patrick School Inc. - \$14,555.00, (b) St. Michael's School - \$67,240.00 and (c) United Academy of Union - \$42,640.00 [for a total of \$124,435.00], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-18. ACCEPT NONPUBLIC TECHNOLOGY AID FROM NJDOE

Accept Nonpublic Technology Aid from the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) for the 2024-2025 school year as follows: (a) The Patrick School Inc. - \$3,087.00, (b) St. Michael's School - \$16,072.00 and (c) United Academy of Union - \$10,192.00 [for a total of \$29,351.00], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-19. ACCEPT NONPUBLIC TEXTBOOK AID FROM NJDOE

Accept Nonpublic Textbook Aid from the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) for the 2024-2025 school year as follows: (a) The Patrick School Inc. - \$3,222.00, (b) St. Michael's School - \$16,774.00 and (c) United Academy of Union - \$10,637.00 [for a total of \$30,633.00], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-20. APPROVE AGREEMENT WITH BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF UNION COUNTY

Approve agreement with the Boys & Girls Club of Union County for the 2024-2025 winter swim season (\$16,000.00), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-21. APPROVE SERVICEMASTER BY TIMELESS

Approve renewal of contract with Service Master by Timeless as an extraordinary unspecifiable service for pre-loss disaster planning and control assessment services and naming ServiceMaster by Timeless the primary contractor for restoration services.

F-22. APPROVE NETWORK SECURITY GROUP

Approve contract with Network Security Group as an extraordinary unspecifiable service for the redesign, configure and Test of Enterprise Network in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00 (or 250 hours), in accordance with the non-public information appended to the minutes.

F-23. APPROVE PRESCHOOL CONTRACT – GATEWAY FAMILY YMCA

Approve Preschool Contract with Gateway Family YMCA, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-24. APPROVE PRESCHOOL CONTRACT – TOWNLEY PRESCHOOL-WONDER TWIN POWERS

Approve Preschool Contract with Townley Preschool-Wonder Twin Powers, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-25. APPROVE PRESCHOOL CONTRACT – ESPIN PRESCHOOL LEARNING CENTER

Approve Preschool Contract with ESPIN Preschool Learning Center, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-26. **APPROVE PRESCHOOL CONTRACT – BRAINIAC’S CHILDCARE CENTER**
Approve Preschool Contract with Brainiac’s Childcare Center, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-27. **APPROVE PRESCHOOL CONTRACT – UNION TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY ACTION ORGANIZATION**
Approve Preschool Contract with Union Township Community Action Organization, Inc., in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-28. **APPROVE EARLY/AFTERCARE CONTRACTS – YMCA**
Approve contracts with the YMCA for (a) early care and (b) aftercare, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-29. *For informational purposes only – vote not required.* List of legal services paid as of July 30, 2024 for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

F-30. *Agenda item tabled until after executive session (Graham Behavior Services)*

F-31. **APPROVE TEACHING STRATEGIES- PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**
Approve Teaching Strategies to provide custom professional development session on TBD, not to exceed \$2,145.00 [Account Fund #11-000-219-320-02-19/7074), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

DISCUSSION:

None

AYE: Ms. Carbonell, Mrs. Mackey, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Minneci,
Mr. Nasta, Mrs. Williams, Ms. Santana

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Operations Committee Resolutions:

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following resolutions were moved by Mr. Nasta, seconded by 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 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

DISCUSSION:

None

AYE: Ms. Carbonell, Mrs. Mackey, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Minneci,
Mr. Nasta, Mrs. Williams, 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. Williams, 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
Charles A. James	Sub-custodian	\$16.00/hr.
Ilsia Alfaro-Garcia	Sub-custodian	\$16.00/hr.
Amylin Zuckerman	Sub-teacher	\$140.00/day
Laura Torres	Sub-teacher	\$140.00/day
Jennifer Zambrano	Sub-teacher	Pending teacher certificate
Claudina Brown	Sub-teacher	Pending teacher certificate
Catriona Corbett	Sub-teacher	\$140.00/day
Marc Crisafi	Coaching only	

P-3A. ACCEPT LETTERS OF RESIGNATION/RETIREMENT

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

Name	Position	Location	Eff. Date	Reason
Juscelina Brito	Bus aide	Transp. Dept	8/2/2024	Resignation
Karin Cigol	Paraprofessional	Hannah Caldwell	9/1/2024	Resignation
Nicole Filippone	Preschool special ed teacher	Hannah Caldwell	10/5/2024	Resignation
Sandra Marques-Albano	Paraprofessional	Hannah Caldwell	8/2/2024	Resignation
Gary Vulturo	2 nd shift custodian	Battle Hill	9/9/2024	Resignation

P-3B. APPROVE LEAVES

Approve leaves for the following staff:

Name	Position	Location	Leave Dates	Leave Type
Kathleen Bruns Meyers	PreK teacher	Livingston	Intermittent 9/1/2024- 6/20/2025	Paid FMLA intermittent leave
Jaclyn Vincent	Kindergarten teacher	Connecticut Farms	Updated Intermittent 9/2/2024- 6/20/2025	Paid FMLA intermittent leave
Olga Kozen	4 th grade teacher	Connecticut Farms	intermittent 9/3/2024- 6/20/2025	Paid FMLA intermittent leave
Christine Zurka	Paraprofessional	Battle Hill	Intermittent 9/1/2024- 6/20/2025	Paid FMLA intermittent leave
Patti Weber	4 th grade teacher	Battle Hill	Intermittent 9/3/2024- 6/20/2025	Paid FMLA intermittent leave
Theresa Matthews	Supervisor-Science	Hamilton	Intermittent 9/3/2024- 6/30/2025	Paid FMLA intermittent leave
Marcy Musarra	Special Ed teacher	UHS	Intermittent 9/10/2024- 6/30/2025	Paid FMLA intermittent leave
Elena Patricco	Kindergarten teacher	Livingston	9/3/2024- 4/30/2024	Unpaid FMLA (not to exceed 8 days)
Christopher Scarpati	Math teacher	BMS	9/9/2024- 11/29/2024	Unpaid FMLA leave
Gwen Platt	PreK interventionist	Districtwide	9/3/2024- 10/7/2024	Paid FMLA leave
Althea Bossard	Principal	UHS	7/29/2024- 8/31/2024	Paid medical leave
Marc Pierre	Driver	Transp. Dept	8/19/2024- TBD	Paid FMLA leave
Marilyn Yawnick	Bus aide	Transp. Dept	9/9/2024- 6/20/2025	Paid FMLA leave
Mary Ingrassia	Teacher assistant	UHS	9/3/2024- 6/20/2025	Paid FMLA leave
Nancy Dionisio	Occupational Therapist	Washington	9/16/2024- 12/1/2024	Paid FMLA leave

P-4. APPROVE DISTRICT DCP&P LIAISON – CONTI

Approve Kim Conti as the district DCP&P liaison for the 2024-2025 school year, at no cost to the district.

P-5. APPROVE JOB DESCRIPTION – INSTRUCTIONAL COACH

Approve the Job Description for Instructional Coach, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

P-6. APPROVE CHANGE OF SALARY CLASS NO. 2

Approve Change of Salary Class No. 2, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

P-7. APPROVE 2024-2025 HOURLY RATES LIST – UPDATED

Approve updated 2024-2025 Hourly Rates List, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

P-8. 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.

DISCUSSION:

None

AYE: Ms. Carbonell, Mrs. Mackey, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Minneci,
Mr. Nasta, Mrs. Williams, Ms. Santana

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Policy Committee:

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following policy was moved Mrs. Williams, seconded by Mrs. Minneci for ***FINAL READING/ADOPTION:***

POL-1. REGULATION 2624 – GRADING SYSTEM

Approve Regulation 2624 – Grading System, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following policy was moved Mrs. Williams, seconded by Mrs. Minneci for ***FIRST READING:***

POL-2. REGULATION 2464 – GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS

Approve Regulation 2464 – Gifted and Talented Students (M), in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

DISCUSSION:

None

AYE: Ms. Carbonell, Mrs. Mackey, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Minneci,
Mr. Nasta, Mrs. Williams, Ms. Santana

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

P. Residency Committee Resolutions:

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following was reported by Mrs. Minneci:

R-1. *For informational purposes only (no vote required):* The following totals are as of the July 30, 2024 Board meeting (2023-2024 school year):

Students Removed:	12
Students Voluntarily Transferred:	51

Technology Committee:

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following resolution was moved by Mr. McDowell, seconded by Mrs. Conteh-Mackey, for adoption:

T-1. APPROVE RECYCLING OF EQUIPMENT

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

DISCUSSION:

None

AYE: Ms. Carbonell, Mrs. Mackey, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Minneci, Mr. Nasta, Mrs. Williams, Ms. Santana

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Approval of Bills:

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and moved by Mrs. Minneci, seconded by Mrs. Williams, 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, Mrs. Mackey, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Minneci, Mr. Nasta, Mrs. Williams, Ms. Santana

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

Mrs. Minneci stated she attended the new teacher orientation and there were about 40-50 new teachers. Mr. Rettino ran the orientation. She stated today she went on the Union Bus Tour. There were two buses and Mr. Rettino and Mr. Arminio spoke about the Town, and everyone seemed to enjoy the ride. She hopes this will continue for next year.

Ms. Santana stated she is looking forward to Dr. Rodriguez to start on September 1st – we have a lot of work to do.

Comments from the Public:

Mr. Buggy advised the community that all questions concerning personnel will not be responded to and all comments should be addressed to the Board President.

Ms. Santana stated please vet your comments/questions before you come up here.

Sol Antencio stated that Governor Murphy signed a literacy bill and the district needs librarians to help assist with the literacy standards. The Governor is moving forward in the right direction and we should all follow this. Please read about it; librarians are key players.

Ann Margaret Shannon stated thank you to Mrs. Koon; the health and safety committee. Anthony has always worked with the UTEA and Ms. McKenzie holds everyone accountable. She also stated that they had an essay contest for 4th, 8th and 10th graders on how to celebrate America's 250th birthday and the UTEA gave checks to the nine winners.

Susan Lipstein stated thank you to Ms. McKenzie and Dr. Benaquista for meeting with her and she will continue lobbying for the librarians. School librarians choose books for the students, clerks can't fill the librarians' shoes. She also stated that most schools have full-time librarians and schools with full-time librarians have better literacy rates.

Virginia Jeffries stated a municipal complaint was filed against her.

Peter Leone stated he has been in the district for 29 years and he appreciated Dr. Benaquista's presentation. Thank you to those who are getting all the things done in the schools.

Natercia Lopes stated school starts next week and she still doesn't have a schedule and she didn't get the superintendent's letter.

Luisa Baez stated she is glad to see Ms. Bossard is now the principal at Union High School. She also stated that there should be parental input with the school calendar.

Kristen Nunez stated it is sad to see people slander others and people say things that are not true. People don't know what is going on – the employees are working hard.

Dr. Benaquista stated you can speak negative, but he will see the positive. There are always positive things. We are here for the kids. I will listen to each of you. He also stated that his team gets the credit and asked that you come with positive thoughts. Some people can't see

the positive. The teachers in this district give their all every day. We will all work together to get it right.

Clay McClain stated when people come here to speak about others – they need to check their own closet. He also stated he heard a lot of positive stuff and you have the right people in place. Come with a positive attitude.

MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Moved by Mrs. Minneci, seconded by Mrs. Conteh-Mackey that the Board go into Executive Session at 9:03 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, student matters, litigation update

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

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

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

The Board returned to public session at 10:06 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. Williams, that the Board return to public session at 10:06 p.m.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

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

F-9C. ACCEPT DONATIONS

Accept the following donations:

From	For Use By	\$/Item
Family Trust Distribution	Union High School	\$508,268.00

F-30. APPROVE GRAHAM BEHAVIOR SERVICES – BEHAVIOR SERVICES

Approve Graham Behavior Services to provide applied behaviorist analysis services; Behaviorist Consultation (BIP review, observation of clients, coordination with behaviorist, 1:1 staff training) 2 hours a week for a total of 76 hours at a rate of \$160.00/hr, not to exceed \$12,160.00 and Functional Behavior Assessment, Behavior Intervention Plan and training by Behaviorist FBA 15 hours, maintenance up to 20 hours, not to exceed 50 hours and not to exceed \$8,000.00 for the 2024-2025 school year (total not to exceed \$20,160.00) [Account Fund #11-000-216-320-01-19/7043], in accordance with the non-public information appended to the minutes.

DISCUSSION:

None

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

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

APPROVE LEGAL SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

Approve legal settlement agreement in the matter of N.G. and E.G. obo C.G. v Township of Union Board of Education.

DISCUSSION:

None

AYE: Ms. Carbonell, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Minneci, Mr. Nasta,
Mrs. Williams, Ms. Santana

NAY: Mrs. Conteh-Mackey

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

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

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Yolanda Koon

YOLANDA KOON
BOARD SECRETARY

