

TOWNSHIP OF UNION BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
August 12, 2025

NOTICE OF MEETING:

TO ALL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS:

The special meeting of the Board of Education of the Township of Union was held on Tuesday, August 12, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. at the Administration Building, 2369 Morris Avenue, Union, New Jersey pursuant to the notice sent to each member. Action was taken.

Ms. Carbonell called the meeting to order at 5:30 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

ABSENT AT ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Guida Faria, Mrs. Kimberly Scott-Hayden

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Mr. Christopher Buggy, Esq.

Ms. Carbonell led the Board 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.

MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Moved by Mr. Cohan, seconded by Mrs. Minneci, that the Board go into Executive Session at 5:33 p.m. to discuss the following subject matters without the presence of the public in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b: personnel, litigation update

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

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

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

The Board returned to public session at 7:26 p.m.

MOTION TO RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION:

There being no further business before the Board it was moved by Ms. Santana, seconded by Mrs. Minneci, that the Board return to public session at 7:26 p.m.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Comments from the Public:

Ms. Carbonell read her statement to attendees concerning comments from the public.

Lyn Conacchia - wanted the Board to know that they have finished a successful summer program understaffed but was able to still do what was needed to do. Camp Invention was well attended, and the staff loves what they do. We are here to educate the kids. We are asking for respect and to settle the contract. We are not here for the money we are here because we love kids.

Ann Margaret Shannon – I would like to thank UTEA members for helping out at Rabkin for the townwide block party. I would ask that the architects and others take another look at the plans for separate-two additional high schools. We are Union and we don't need to divide us we are one. These schools would only segregate us and it would go against our principles. Webster Park is not a good location. Why not put more money in for our current students, staff and our current buildings. Let's take care of what we have already. Please put the dollars\assets into our students and staff and lets settle the contract now.

Virgina Jeffries - had questions regarding the ESS Contract. What are these two contracts for? Will these outside staff be held to the standard as dress code, supervising them?

Dr. Benaquista indicated that the ESS employees will have to meet our expectations and demonstrate professionalism. The district will have the opportunity to also screen and interview them before they are hired.

Fiscal and Planning Committee Resolutions:

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

F-1. APPROVE ESS NORTHEAST, LLC

Approve ESS Northeast, LLC to provide educational staffing services (paraprofessionals) at the request of the district for the 2025-2026 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

DISCUSSION:

None

AYE: Mr. Cohan, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Minneci, Mr. Nasta, Ms. Carbonell

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Mrs. Conteh-Mackey, Ms. Santana

MOTION CARRIED

Personnel Committee Resolutions:

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

P-1A. PERSONNEL ACTIONS – NEW HIRES

Personnel Actions-New Hires be approved, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

DISCUSSION:

None

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the Board in public session it was moved by Mr. Cohan, seconded by Ms. Santana, that the meeting be adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Yolanda Koon

YOLANDA KOON, BOARD SECRETARY