

TOWNSHIP OF UNION BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – January 23, 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, January 23, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. at the Union High School Library, 2350 North 3rd Street, Union, New Jersey pursuant to notice sent to each member.

Ms. Santana called the meeting to order at 5:46 p.m.

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:

Ms. Dixiana Carbonell, Mr. Michael Cohan (via Zoom), Mrs. Elsie Conteh-Mackey, Mr. Ronnie McDowell, Mrs. Nancy Minneci, Ms. Chastity Santana, Mrs. Kimberly Scott-Hayden,

ABSENT AT ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Mary Lynn Williams (7:15 p.m.)

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Dr. Gerald Benaquista, Dr. Gretel Perez, 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 5:49 p.m. to discuss the following subject matters without the presence of the public in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b: personnel, student matters, legal updates.

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. Mackey, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Minneci,  
Mrs. Scott-Hayden, Ms. Santana

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

The Board returned to public session at 8:18 p.m.

Mrs. Minneci informed the Board that a long-time employee, Joann Palmieri, passed away last week. Mrs. Palmieri and her husband, Peter, raised two children in Union. In 1990, Mrs. Palmieri worked as secretary at Central 6 and retired in 2012. “Joann imparted her own unique, one of a kind wisdom and tell it like it is style. She always said what others were thinking and dealt out the best anecdotes and life advice to all who knew her. Her dedication was remarkable.”

Ms. Santana asked for a moment of silence for the Hannah Caldwell family that we lost last week.

Mrs. Mackey stepped out of meeting prior to vote.

Approval of Minutes:

Moved by Ms. Santana, seconded by Mrs. Williams, that the following minutes be adopted:

1. December 12, 2023 – executive session
2. December 12, 2023 – worksession meeting
3. December 19, 2023 – regular meeting

DISCUSSION:

None

AYE: Ms. Carbonell, Mrs. Minneci, Mrs. Scott-Hayden, Mrs. Williams, Ms. Santana

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Mr. Cohan, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Scott-Hayden (#1, #2)

MOTION CARRIED

Communications:

LETTER OF RETIREMENT – WILLIAMS

Letter of resignation, for the purpose of retirement, from Lucille Williams, Student Assistance Counselor-Union High School, effective September 1, 2024.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION – CURIEL

Letter of resignation from Lania Curiel, bus driver-Transportation Department, effective December 31, 2023.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE – LEMBRYK**

Request for paid medical leave from Lester Lembryk, physical education teacher-Union High School, December 4, 2023-February 29, 2024.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE – PATRICCO**

Request for paid child rearing leave followed by unpaid FMLA/NJFLA from Elena Patricco, second grade teacher-Livingston Elementary School, February 20, 2024-September 24, 2024.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE – HRDINA**

Request for medical leave from Jaclyn Hrdina, pre-k teacher-Battle Hill Elementary School, January 3, 2024-January 31, 2024.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE UPDATE – SULCOV**

Request for leave updated from Stephanie Sulcov, CST teacher-Battle Hill Elementary School, new leave date - January 2, 2024.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE – GRAHAM**

Request for paid FMLA/NJFLA followed by unpaid FMLA leave from Kari Graham, paraprofessional-Franklin Elementary School, December 18, 2023-January 30, 2024.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE UPDATE – KOON**

Request for paid medical leave update from Yolanda Koon, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, new return date on or before February 1, 2024.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE UPDATE – FERRETTI**

Request for paid medical leave update from Cynthia Ferretti, second grade teacher-Washington Elementary School, new return date February 7, 2024.

**REQUEST FOR INTERMITTENT LEAVE – KORZEN**

Request for paid intermittent FMLA/NJFLA leave followed by unpaid FMLA from Olga Korzen, fourth grade teacher-Connecticut Farms Elementary School, February 1, 2024-June 21, 2024.

**REQUEST FOR INTERMITTENT LEAVE – COLANDREA**

Request for paid intermittent FMLA/NJFLA followed by unpaid FMLA leave for Tara Colandrea, SAC-Burnet Middle School, January 9, 2024-January 9, 2025.

**REQUEST FROM TOWNSHIP OF UNION – USE JEFFERSON SCHOOL**

Request from Township of Union to use Jefferson School Auditorium and parking lot for the Township of Union's BHM 'Crowns' The Musical performance on Friday, February 9, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, February 10, 2024 at 12:00 noon and 6:00 p.m. (with a rain date of February 16 and February 17, 2024).

**REQUEST FROM TOWNSHIP OF UNION – USE OF JEFFERSON SCHOOL**

Request from the Human Relations Committee Township of Union, chaired by Reverend Wright to use Jefferson School for the Black History Month event on February 17, 2024 between 11 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

**Comments from Public (on resolutions and all other matters):**

Melissa Diaz stated she wanted to publicly thank Ms. Bossa (Battle Hill) for always helping her student; she goes out of her way for her students.

**Superintendent's Report:**

Dr. Benaquista presented the State of the Schools, a copy is appended to the minutes and a summary is below:

**Impact Employee Recognition:**

- Michaela Whitman-Land – UHS Certified School Psychologist – advocates for all her special education students. She is dedicated and has tremendous pride in her work; and
- John Boyd – TUPS Maintenance Department – volunteered his time for over 20 years to the Little League Challenger Division as a coach for children ages 7 to 21 with challenging needs. The Challenge Leagues are created to provide safe environments for individuals with special needs

Student Farmer Frontline – Mean Girls at Kean's Wilkins Theater– a UHSPAC presentation – January 19-21, 2024.

School Board Recognition Month – Dr. Benaquista distributed a letter to the Board members thanking the Board for their dedication, commitment and invaluable services they provide to the school community. He is grateful for their hard work, dedication and he appreciates their service. Letter attached to minutes.

**Tomorrow's Teachers – students of Tomorrow's Teachers:**

- attended the Fall NJFEA Conference at William Paterson on October 13
- every month, they complete a bulletin board project related to the time of year – to show their creativity while decorating the hallway
- are completing their required fieldwork for Kean University

Muslim Heritage Month – all schools are participating in Muslim Heritage Month by doing varying activities.

**Curriculum Pilots:**

- Elementary ELA - IntroReading and MyView
- Middle School math – Big Ideas

**HIB (see item appended to minutes; a summary is below):**

- Reported – January 10-23, 2024 – 2 founded

- Affirmed – December 20, 2023-January 9, 2024 – 6 founded, 5 unfounded, 1 inconclusive

HIB – Bi-Annual Report – Reporting Period 1 – September 2023 to December 2023 -  
 Founded – 44 and Unfounded/inconclusive – 44:

School	Founded	Unfounded/ Inconclusive
Battle Hill	1	1
Burnet	17	1
Connecticut Farms	5	0
Franklin	0	9
Hannah Caldwell	0	2
Jefferson	1	2
Kawameeh	6	4
Livingston	0	3
Washington	0	1
Union High School	14	21

Nature of HIB:

Race	9	Origin	0	Gender Identity	5
Color	4	Gender	7	Mental, physical or sensory disability	4
Religion	1	Sexual orientation	4	Other distinguishing characteristics	23
Ancestry	2				

Type of Support Services and/or Discipline Imposed:

	HIB	Non-HIB
Change of Environment	7	2
Counseling Services	41	50
Detention	8	3
Educated	16	2
Group Counseling	5	2
In-School suspension	2	0
Mediated	18	2
Out of school suspension	2	2
Parent Conference	1	3
Police Notification	1	0
Warning	0	0
Monitored	17	0

Other	1	2
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## Anti-Bullying Specialists:

School		School	
Battle Hill	Erin Jackson	Kawameeh	Madeline Yatsko
Burnet	Tara Colandrea	Livingston	Leanne Brink
Connecticut Farms	Gihann Elshiekh	Washington	Kim Marano
Franklin	Alicia Rodroquez	Union High (Lead)	Lucille Williams
Hannah Caldwell	Janette Tramuta	Union High/District	Jill Hall
Jefferson	Fatima DeCorte		

Additional information appended to the minutes.

February 2, 2024 – American Heart Association Go Red for Woman – Wear Red Day

TUPS Bumper Sticker Design Contest – so many good entries that there may be more than one winner.

The Student Liaisons: Neissa Filias; Gia Patel presented their December-January highlights, a copy is appended to the minutes and a summary is below:

- Senior Class Event – Winder Wonderland – December 20, 2023
- Mean Girls Production – January 19-21, 2024
- TUPS Parents Academy – January 18, 2024 – conducted a seminar to explore the profound effects of stress on both physical and mental health
- 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade info night – students were introduced to extracurriculars at UHS
- Winter coat drive – January 2-February 1, 2024 – presented by UHS Empower Club – to help families in need
- UHS Fashion Show – January 25, 2024 - a collaborative effort of the Senior Class Council and Student Council
- UHS Wrestling – UHS senior Dan Collin won Union County Championship – 175 pound weight class; Aziel Azeredo finished second-138 pound weight class; Union overall finished fifth in team standings. Currently 10-4 and ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in North Jersey Section 2 Group 5; Alissa Alcindor is top ranked female wrestler and finished first in the Elizabeth Lady Minutemen Tournament and first at the Bergen County Girls Wrestling Invitational. Christine Pierre-Louis finished third at these two tournaments.
- UHS Track – Esther Amadi and Baba Olowe finished first – Pioneer Shot Put night; UHS Track competed in the Union County Championships (1/19/24) – Girls 4x400m – Muscat, Kidd, Onwunali and Portuondo earned 2<sup>nd</sup> place; Caleb Duvelson earned 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Shot Put; Mikarla Portuondo earned 4<sup>th</sup> in the 400m and 6<sup>th</sup> in the 200m; Cassidy Kid earned 6<sup>th</sup> in the 800m
- Congratulations to long-time UHS Track Coach Bill Soranno – who was inducted into the New Jersey Scholastic Coaching Association Hall of Fame Class of 2024. He has coached track and cross country at UHS for over 30 years and accumulated hundreds of wins, over 30 county champions, section champions and group state champions.

- UHS Representative – Samantha Turner, UHS senior, is a member of the UHS Field Hockey, Basketball and Track teams. She represented Union at the “National Women and Girls in Sports” Day at Rutgers University on January 14, 2024.
- December Athletes of the Month: Arian Betances – boys swimming; Frances Batulan – girls swimming; Samad Alim – bowling and Gabriel Hargrove – wrestling.
- Union Bowling – Samad Alim is competing in the Union County Boys Bowling Championship at Jersey Lanes; Mikayla May is competing in the Union County Girls Bowling Championship at Jersey Lanes.

#### Education/Student Discipline Committee Resolutions:

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

E-1. *Agenda item approved at January 9, 2024 worksession – Affirm Determination of HIB – December 13, 2023-December 19, 2023).*

E-1A. *Agenda item reported at January 9, 2024 worksession – Report of HIB – December 20, 2023-January 9, 2024).*

#### E-1-1. AFFIRM SUPERINTENDENT’S DETERMINATION OF HIB

Affirm the Superintendent’s determination of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) for the periods December 20, 2023 to January 9, 2024, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

#### E-1-1A. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT OF HIB

Superintendent’s Report of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) for the period January 10, 2024 to January 23, 2024, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes (*no vote required; for reporting purposes only*).

#### E-2. APPROVE ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS – NJDOE SCHOOL BASED MENTAL HEALTH GRANT AWARD

Approve acceptance of funds in the amount of \$375,000 for the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) School Based Mental Health Grant Award for the 2023-2024 school year.

#### E-3. APPROVE APPLICATION AND RECEIPT OF FUNDS – NJDOE MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING GRANT PROGRAM

Approve application and receipt of funds for the New Jersey Department of Education Mental Health Screening in Schools Grant Program (Year 1 of 4) in the amount of \$73,340.00 per year as part of receiving the School Based Mental Health Grant Award.

#### E-4. APPROVE JANUARY REPORT – NJDOE – HIB

Approve the Township of Union Public Schools January report presented by the Superintendent as required by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) of Harassment Intimidation and Bullying (HIB). The report provides the public with the information collection from September 2023 through December 2023, as well as the number of incidents per school building, status of investigations, HIB investigators, nature of the HIB reports and the discipline

resulting from the report findings. The HIB report also includes all training of school district personnel, building programs and assemblies during the time period.

**E-5. APPROVE CURRICULA**

Approve the following curricula: (a) Algebra I, (b) U.S. History I, and (c) US. History II, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**E-6. APPROVE UPDATED 2023-2024 SCHOOL CALENDAR**

Approve updated 2023-2024 school calendar, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**E-7. APPROVE 2024-2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR**

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

**E-8. *Settlement Agreement – obo MC – to be voted on after executive session.***

**E-9. APPROVE REINSTATEMENT – STUDENTS**

Approve the reinstatement of the following students: ID #250848, 256000, 268289, 260059, 250882, per the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools.

**E-10. APPROVE SUSPENSION – STUDENT**

Approve suspension of student #268119 from the general education program, in accordance with the discussions during executive session.

**DISCUSSION:**

Mr. Buggy stated that E-8 – the Settlement Agreement needs to be discussed in executive session and therefore will be voted on thereafter. Mr. McDowell informed the community that E-9, E-10 and E-11A-C have been added to the agenda and E-11A-C will be voted on individually.

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

**NAY:** None

**ABSTAIN:** Mrs. Williams (E-9, E-10)

**MOTION CARRIED**

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

**E-11A. APPROVE AFFIRMATION OF HIB – KMS #10**

Approve to affirm HIB – KMS #10.

**DISCUSSION:**

None



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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Mrs. Mackey, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Williams

MOTION CARRIED

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

E-11B. APPROVE TO REJECT FINDINGS AND TO REINVESTIGATE OF HIB – LES #2

Approve rejection of findings and to reinvestigate HIB – LES #2.

DISCUSSION:

None

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

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

E-11C. APPROVE AFFIRMATION OF HIB – FES #7

Approve to affirm HIB – FES #7.

DISCUSSION:

None

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

[Fiscal and Planning Committee Resolutions:](#)

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

F-1. TREASURER’S REPORT

That the Treasurer’s Report dated December 31, 2023 be accepted.

F-2. SECRETARY’S REPORT

That the Secretary’s Report dated December 31, 2023 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 December 31, 2023 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 December 31, 2023 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 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 approved at January 9, 2024 worksession – Student Field Trips.*

**F-7A. APPROVE DISTRICTWIDE STUDENT FIELD TRIPS**

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

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

Approve the amended list of the 2023-2024 State Contract 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	2033/Marching Band	Pine Forest Camp – band camp	\$1,000.00
Union High School	2045/Music	Old Fashion Candy – fundraising candy and snack boxes	\$3,078.95

**F-9B. APPROVE FUNDRAISERS**

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

Event Name	Date	Purpose
Popcorn Sale	January 2024	Burnet/High Note Festival – to raise funds for trip to festival and Dorney Park
Pink Out Breast Cancer Game	February 2024	UHS/Girls Basketball – to raise funds for breast cancer awareness
Kickball Tournament	June 2024	UHS/Athletic Training Club – to raise funds for end of year celebrations
Dodgeball Tournament	March 2024	UHS/Athletic Training Club – to raise funds for end of year celebration
Ms. UHS	January 24, 2024- June 19, 2024	UHS/Junior Class – to raise funds for Junior Class
Junior Movie Night	January 24, 2024- June 19, 2024	UHS/Junior Class – to raise funds for Junior Class
Krispy Kreme Donut Sale	January 24, 2024- June 19, 2024	UHS/Junior Class – to raise funds for Junior Class
Junior Class Dance	January 24, 2024- June 19, 2024	UHS/Junior Class – to raise funds for Junior Class
Donors Choose	January 24-August 30, 2024	UHS/self-contained/WBL program – to raise funds for items needed for programs
National Wear Red Day	February 2, 2024	Districtwide-to raise funds for the American Heart Association

F-9C. *Agenda item approved at January 9, 2024 worksession – accept donations.*

**F-10. APPROVE 2023-2024 OUT-OF-DISTRICT STUDENT PLACEMENT LIST**

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

**F-11. APPROVE TECHABILITIES CONSULTING – EVALUATIONS**

Approve TechAbilities Consulting LLC to provide the following evaluations for district students: (a) assistive technology evaluations - \$875.00 per evaluation, (b) augmentative communication evaluations - \$1,000 per evaluation, (c) assistive technological or AAC consultation - \$150.00/hour for the 2023-2024 school year (not to exceed \$10,000.00) [Account #11-000-219-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-12. APPROVE GOOD TALKING PEOPLE – SPEECH/LANGUAGE THERAPY SERVICES**

Approve Good Talking People, LLC to provide speech/language pathologist to render speech/language therapy services, including student evaluations, consultation at the rate of

\$100.00/hour for the 2023-2024 school year (not to exceed \$60,000.00) [Account #11-000-216-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-13. APPROVE ALLCARE THERAPY SERVICES – SPEECH/LANGUAGE SERVICES**

Approve Allcare Therapy Services to provide speech/language pathologist to render speech/language therapy services, including student evaluations, consultation at the rate of \$100.00/hour for the 2023-2024 school year (not to exceed \$60,000.00) [Account #11-000-216-320-01-19], in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-14. APPROVE CONTRACTS – COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED**

Approve School Contract with the State of New Jersey, Department of Human Services, Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired, for educational services for students in the district for the 2023-2024 school year, in accordance with the non-public information appended to the minutes.

**F-15. APPROVE PURCHASING MANUAL**

Approve the updated 2023-2024 Purchasing Manual, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**F-16. *For informational purposes only – vote not required.*** List of legal services for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**DISCUSSION:**

None

**AYE:** Ms. Carbonell, Mr. Cohan, Mrs. Mackey, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Minneci, Mrs. Scott-Hayden, 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 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 2023-2024 school year, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

**O-2. REQUEST FROM TOWNSHIP OF UNION – TO USE JEFFERSON SCHOOL**

Request from Township of Union to use Jefferson School Auditorium and parking lot for the Township of Union's BHM 'Crowns' The Musical performance on Friday, February 9, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, February 10, 2024 at 12:00 noon and 6:00 p.m. (with a rain date of February 16 and February 17, 2024).

**O-3. REQUEST FROM TOWNSHIP OF UNION – USE OF JEFFERSON SCHOOL**

Request from the Human Relations Committee Township of Union, chaired by Reverend Wright, to use Jefferson School for the Black History Month event on February 17, 2024 between 11 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

**DISCUSSION:**

None

**AYE:** Ms. Carbonell, Mr. Cohan, Mrs. Mackey, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Minneci, Mrs. Scott-Hayden, 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-2. APPROVE SUBSTITUTE LISTS**

Approve Substitute Lists for the 2023-2024 school year.

Name	Position	Rate
Victoria Paradela	Sub-custodian	\$16.00/hr.
Joshua Peterson	Sub-custodian	\$16.00/hr.
Adam M. Wachstein	Sub-custodian	\$16.00/hr.

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

Accept letters of resignation/retirement from the following staff:

Name	Position	Location	Eff. Date	Reason	Notes
Lucille Williams	SAC	UHS	9/1/2024	Retirement	
Lania Curiel	Bus driver	Transportation Dept.	12/31/2023	Resignation	

**P-3B. APPROVE LEAVES**

Approve leaves for the following staff:

Name	Position	Location	Leave Dates	Leave Type	Notes
Lester Lembryk	PE teacher	UHS	12/4/2023-2/29/2024	Paid medical leave	

Elena Patricco	2 <sup>nd</sup> grade teacher	Livingston	2/20/2024-9/24/2024	Paid child rearing leave followed by unpaid FMLA/NJFLA	
Jaclyn Hrdina	Prek teacher	Battle Hill	1/3/2024-1/31/2024	Paid medical leave	
Stephanie Sulcov	CST	Hannah Caldwell	New leave date 1/2/2024-6/1/2024	Paid child rearing followed by unpaid FMLA/NJFLA	
Kari Graham	Paraprofessional	Franklin	12/18/2023-1/30/2024	Paid FMLA/NJFLA followed by unpaid FMLA leave	
Yolanda Koon	SBA/BS	Business Office	New return date on or before 2/1/2024	Paid medical leave	
Olga Korzen	4 <sup>th</sup> grade teacher	Connecticut Farms	Intermittent 2/1/2024-6/21/2024	Paid intermittent FMLA/NJFLA leave followed by unpaid FMLA leave	
Tara Colandrea	SAC	BMS	Intermittent 1/9/2024-1/29/2025	Paid intermittent FMLA/NJFLA leave followed by unpaid FMLA	
Cynthia Ferretti	2 <sup>nd</sup> grade teacher	Washington	New return date 2/7/2024	Paid medical leave	

P-4. APPROVE PUBLIC AGENCY COMPLIANCE OFFICER – KOON  
 Approve Yolanda Koon as Public Agency Compliance Officer (PACO) for the year 2024, at no cost to the district.

P-5. APPROVE UPDATED 2023-2024 HOURLY RATES LIST  
 Approve updated 2023-2024 Hourly Rates List, in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

DISCUSSION:  
 None

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Policy Committee:

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Policy Committee presents the following policies for the Board’s consideration:

POL-1. *Agenda item approved at January 9, 2024 worksession - Policy 0142.*

POL-2. *Agenda item approved at January 9, 2024 worksession – Policy 8454.*

Residency Committee Resolutions:

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

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

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

Student No.	School
#260572	Union High School – 10 <sup>th</sup> grade
#314010	Jefferson School – 5 <sup>th</sup> grade

**DISCUSSION:**

None

Technology Committee:

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following resolution was moved by Mr. McDowell, seconded by Mrs. Scott-Hayden, 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, Mr. Cohan, Mrs. Mackey, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Minneci, Mrs. Scott-Hayden, Mrs. Williams, Ms. Santana

**NAY:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**MOTION CARRIED**

Approval of Bills:

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and moved by Ms. Carbonell, 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, Mr. Cohan, Mrs. Mackey, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Minneci,  
Mrs. Scott-Hayden, Mrs. Williams, Ms. Santana

**NAY:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Unfinished Business:**

Mrs. Mackey stated we need communication and clarity for the community regarding why Zoom is not an option for Board meetings. Dr. Benaquista stated if we are all on Zoom there would be no issues; however, when it is hybrid, the district is not equipped and not set up for that. Hopefully in the future we can come up with something. Ms. Santana stated we are on two platforms and if there is an emergency, we will do Zoom.

**New Business:**

Ms. Santana informed the community that Ms. McKenzie resigned her position on the Board and wishes her well.

Mrs. Minneci stated she attended the SEPAC meeting. They had an attorney who spoke on special education and it was very informative.

Ms. Carbonell stated celebrating Go Red is very commendable and asked if it is part of health. Dr. Benaquista stated some of the students get certified.

Mr. McDowell stated for our students and families who are dealing with stress, the district will make a list of resources available to parents and students online.

Dr. Benaquista stated there was a fundraiser for the Hannah Caldwell family and the community raised over \$25,000.00.

**MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Moved by Mrs. Scott-Hayden, seconded by Mrs. Minneci, that the Board go into Executive Session at 9:27 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, 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. Mackey, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Minneci,  
Mrs. Scott-Hayden, Mrs. Williams, Ms. Santana

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

The Board returned to public session at 9:56 p.m.

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

E-8. APPROVE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND GENERAL RELEASE

Approve Settlement Agreement and General Release for D.C. and J.C. o/b/o M.C., in accordance with the non-public information appended to the minutes.

DISCUSSION:

None

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the Board in public session it was moved by Mrs. Williams, seconded by Ms. Santana, that the meeting be adjourned at 10:01 p.m.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

*Yolanda Koon*

YOLANDA KOON  
BOARD SECRETARY

