

Union County Educational Services Commission

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

October 6, 2021

MINUTES

A meeting of the Union County Educational Services Commission Representative Assembly was held on Wednesday, October 6, 2021, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room of the Commission Offices at 45 Cardinal Drive, Westfield, NJ.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Eric Larson read the following statement:

Adequate notice of this meeting as required by the Open Public Meetings Act was provided by the posting, filing and mailing of a notice for posting on the bulletin boards at Westlake School 970 Suburban Road, Crossroads School and Nonpublic School Services, 45 Cardinal Drive, Westfield, Hillcrest Academy North, 2630 Plainfield Avenue, Scotch Plains; and the County Superintendent of Schools, 300 North Avenue, East, Westfield, and to the STAR LEDGER, Newark; and filed with the County Clerk of Union County, Elizabeth, all in New Jersey.

ROLL CALL:

Roll call by verbal roll call. There were present:

Berkeley Heights	
Clark	Ms. Lorraine Aklonis
Cranford	
Elizabeth	
Garwood	Ms. Maureen Scepkowski
Hillside	Ms. Laquana Best
Kenilworth	
Linden	
Mountainside	
New Providence	Ms. Amanda Marano
Plainfield	
Rahway	
Roselle	
Roselle Park	
Scotch Plains/Fanwood	
Springfield	
Summit	
Union	Ms. Mary Lynn Williams
U. C. Vo-Tech	Ms. Janet Behrmann
Westfield	Ms. Amy Root
Winfield	Ms. Vanessa Schroeder
Acting Superintendent	Mr. Michael Kowalski
Board Secretary	Mr. Eric Larson

SALUTE TO THE FLAG:

RECOGNIZE THE PUBLIC:

Cranford Jaycees presented a \$5,000 check to Josh Bornstein, Director of Special Projects, for the Work Readiness Academy from the proceeds of their Annual Golf Outing

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION:

It was moved by Ms. Best, seconded by Ms. Root, and carried by roll call vote, to approve the following:

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION:**

A. Motion to approve the following Executive Committee actions:

September 9, 2021	Executive Committee Agenda	(Att. A)
September 9, 2021	Motion	(Att. B)
September 13, 2021	Executive Committee Agenda	(Att. C)
September 13, 2021	Motion	(Att. D)
September 13, 2021	Motion	(Att. E)
October 1, 2021	Executive Committee Agenda	(Att. F)
October 1, 2021	Motion	(Att. G)

Ayes: Mesdames; Aklonis, Scepkowski, Best, Marano, Behrmann, Root, Schroeder; Messr:

Nays: None

Abstain: Williams

**END OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION**

MINUTES:

It was moved by Ms. Behrmann, seconded by Ms. Root, and carried by voice vote, to approve the following:

A. Motion to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of September 1, 2021

(Att. 1)

Abstain: Williams  
Behrmann  
Schroeder

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

It was moved by Ms. Best, seconded by Ms. Williams, and carried by unanimous voice vote, to approve the following:

A. Motion to approve the Report of the Superintendent for October 2021

(Att. 2)

FINANCE:

It was moved by Ms. Scepkowski, seconded by Ms. Behrmann, and carried by roll call vote, to approve the following agenda items:

A. Motion to approve the Secretary's Financial Reports:

Board Secretary Report dated August 2021 (Att. 3)  
Budget Report dated September 30, 2021 (Att. 4)  
Check Register for the month ended September 2021, in the amount of \$5,229,595.66 (Att. 5)  
Budget transfers for September 2021 (Att. 6)

B. Motion to approve the attached September 30, 2021 check register for the School Lunch Account with a total of \$5,424.56 (Att. 7)

C. WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 6:30-213, over expenditure of funds requires certification from the Board Secretary on the status of account and fund balances

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE Board of Directors does hereby acknowledge that there are no line item accounts showing a deficit balance for the month of September 2021

AND FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby acknowledges that a deficit balance does not exist in any major category

D. Motion to approve a stipend of \$45 per month for a cell phone for the Head Bus Driver from September 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

E. Motion to appropriate **\$112,278** in unanticipated revenue into the following Non-Public Nursing grant line items in the 2021-2022 budget:

Acct 20-000-213-100-0-624-000 \$81,903 Non-Public Salaries  
Acct 20-000-291-220-0-624-000 \$2,834 Non-Public Social Security  
Acct 20-000-291-241-0-624-000 \$18,822 Non Public Retirement Contributions  
Acct 20-000-291-250-0-624-000 \$260 Non Public Unemployment Compensation  
Acct 20-000-291-260-0-624-000 \$5,048 Non-Public Workman's Compensation  
Acct 20-000-213-600-0-624-000 \$3,411 Non-Public Supplies

F. Motion to approve the attached agreement for the Non-Public EANS program and the associated increase of \$3,892,471.12 in unanticipated revenue to the following line items in the 2021-2022 budget:

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Description</u>
\$3,892,471.12	20-140-100-610-0-700-700 EANS Allocation

(Att. 8)

G. Motion to accept an Emergency Connectivity Fund Grant of \$58,752 from the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) to purchase internet connected devices and mobile internet hotspots for students who would otherwise lack access to technology sufficient to engage in remote learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

(Att. 9)

FINANCE: (Cont'd)

- H. Motion to accept an American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief Grant (ARP ESSER) from the New Jersey Department of Education in the amount of \$175, 854 to fund academic, social-emotional, and mental health programs to support the safe return to full-time in person learning and address the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic
- I. Motion to approve the use of Fund 30, up to insurance coverage, to account for facility related expenditures and related insurance proceeds associated with damage to 1571 Lamberts Mill Road resulting from hurricane IDA on Sept 1, 2021
- J. Motion to continue to provide a suitable specialized alternative education program with the Elizabeth Board of Education for Hillcrest Academy South and Hillcrest Academy North for the 2021-2022 school year for a tuition per student of \$22,578 for 204 students totaling \$4,605,912. This is the second year of a five-year contract

Ayes: Mesdames; Aklonis, Scepkowski, Best, Marano, Williams, Behrmann, Root, Schroeder; Messr:

Nays: None

Abstain: None

PROGRAMS:

It was moved by Ms. Best, seconded by Ms. Root, and carried by roll call vote, to approve the following agenda items:

- A. Motion to affirm the HIB Report of Investigation 22-01 as presented by the Superintendent in Executive Session on September 1, 2021
- B. Motion to approve a catering agreement between the UCESC and UCVTS for student meal preparation at a cost of \$4.15 per breakfast and lunch plus 100% of labor costs. This arrangement has been approved by the NJ DOE
- C. Motion to approve an affiliation agreement between Union County Educational Services Commission and Seton Hall University to offer clinical practicum experiences for graduate students enrolled in the Applied Behavior Analysis Program during the 2021-2022 school year (Att. 10)
- D. Motion to approve the District Professional Development Plan for the 2021-2022 school year (Att. 11)
- E. Motion to approve an agreement between Union County Educational Services Commission and Allied Universal Security Services to provide substitute security guard staffing in UCESC schools at a rate of \$22.00/hour, as needed for the 2021-2022 school year (Att. 12)

PROGRAM: (Cont'd)

- 21A. Motion to approve the New Day program, a collaborative partnership with Trinitas Hospital Behavioral Health providing an educational program in an intensive behavioral therapeutic setting. Services provided as full day classroom model at Lamberts Mill Academy for qualified students at an annual tuition rate of \$58,540.

Ayes: Mesdames; Aklonis, Scepkowski, Best, Marano, Williams, Behrmann, Root, Schroeder; Messr:

Nays: None

Abstain: None

TRANSPORTATION:

It was moved by Ms. Root, seconded by Ms. Williams, and carried by roll call vote, to approve the following agenda items:

- A. Motion to approve Amendments to Existing Transportation Contracts dated October 6, 2021, in accordance with the contractual provisions relative to adjusted mileage and the contractor's bid for adjusted miles (Att. 13)
- B. Motion to approve the Emergency Contract payments for the month of September to the listed contractors at the costs indicated (Att. 14)
- C. Motion to approve the attached Emergency/Negotiated Contracts (Att. 15)

Ayes: Mesdames; Aklonis, Scepkowski, Best, Marano, Williams, Behrmann, Root, Schroeder; Messr:

Nays: None

Abstain: None

POLICIES AND REGULATIONS:

It was moved by Ms. Best, seconded by Ms. Behrmann, and carried by roll call vote, to approve the following:

- A. Motion to approve the following policy for a first reading:
- P 2425 Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Program
- B. Motion to approve the following new and/or revised bylaws, policies, or regulations for a second reading and adoption:
- Bylaw 0131 Bylaws, Policies and Regulations  
P 1521 Educational Improvement Plans (ABOLISHED)  
P 1648 Restart and Recovery Plan (ABOLISHED)

POLICIES AND REGULATIONS: (Cont'd)

P 1648.02	Remote Learning Options for Families (ABOLISHED)
P 1648.03	Restart and Recovery Plan – Full-Time Remote Instruction (Abolished)
P 1648.11	The Road Forward – COVID 19 – Health and Safety
P 1648.13	School Employee Vaccination Requirements
P 1649	Federal Families First Coronavirus (COVID 19) Response Act (ABOLISHED)
P 2421	Career and Technical Education
R 2421	Vocational – Technical Education (ABOLISHED)
P 3134	Assignment of Extra Duties
P & R 3142	Nonrenewal of Nontenured Teaching Staff Member
P & R 3221	Evaluation of Teachers
P & R 3222	Evaluation of Teaching Staff Members, Excluding Teachers and Administrators
P & R 3223	Evaluation of Administrators, Excluding Principals, Vice Principals and Assistant Principals
P & R 3224	Evaluation of Principals, Vice Principals and Assistant Principals
P & R 4146	Nonrenewal of Nontenured Support Staff Member
P & R 5460.02	Bridge Year Pilot Program
P & R 6471	School District Travel
P 8561	Procurement Procedures for School Nutrition Programs

Ayes: Mesdames; Aklonis, Scepkowski, Best, Marano, Williams, Behrmann, Root, Schroeder; Messr:

Nays: None

Abstain: None

TRAVEL AND RELATED EXPENSES:

It was moved by Ms. Williams, seconded by Ms. Root, and carried by roll call vote, to approve the following agenda item:

- A. Motion to authorize in advance, as required by statute and Commission policies and regulations, attendance at the specified professional development conferences/ workshops/ programs by the employees listed for the dates and costs indicated on the attached Travel and Related Expense Reimbursement Form (Att. 16)

Ayes: Mesdames; Aklonis, Scepkowski, Best, Marano, Williams, Behrmann, Root, Schroeder; Messr:

Nays: None

Abstain: None

PERSONNEL:

It was moved by Ms. Best seconded by Ms. Scepkowski, and carried by roll call vote, to approve the following Agenda item:

- A. Motion to approve the Personnel Agenda dated October 6, 2021 as recommended by the Superintendent (Att. 17)

Ayes: Mesdames; Aklonis, Scepkowski, Best, Marano, Williams, Behrmann, Root, Schroeder; Messr:

Nays: None

Abstain: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

RECOGNIZE THE PUBLIC:

Kathy Jackositz from Mountainside advocated for limits on the Governor's numerous mandates.

Mary Lynn Palmer, teacher at Westlake School spoke about a program the students do making chocolates which are for sale.

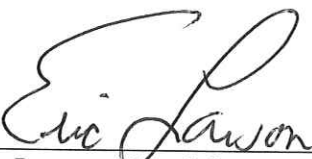
Kathi Sottosanti from Mountainside reinforced the desire to limit New Jersey mandates restricting personal freedoms and forcing perceived safety risks.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be at 7:00 p.m., **Wednesday, November 10, 2021** in the second floor conference room at 45 Cardinal Drive, Westfield, N.J.

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion of Ms. Root, seconded by Ms. Marano, and carried by unanimous voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

  
Eric Larson, Board Secretary