

Union County Educational Services Commission
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
November 6, 2024

MINUTES

This meeting was posted in accordance with the Open Public Meetings act PL 1975 Chapter 231.
The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm.

1. Attendance Roll Call

Roll call by verbal roll call. There were present:

Berkeley Heights	
Clark	Ms. Lorraine j. Aklonis
Cranford	
Elizabeth	Mr. Jerry Jacobs
Garwood	Ms. Linda Koenig
Hillside	Ms. Laquana Best
Kenilworth	Ms. Michelle Panichi*
Linden	
Mountainside	
New Providence	
Plainfield	
Rahway	Ms. Jennifer Moteiro
Roselle	
Roselle Park	
Scotch Plains/Fanwood	Ms. Debora Brody
Springfield	
Summit	
Union	
U. C. Vo-Tech	Ms. Gwen Ryan
Westfield	Ms. Julie Steinberg
Winfield	Ms. Ann Marie Weiss
Superintendent	Ms. Carrie Dattilo
Board Secretary	Mr. Eric Larson

*Left at 8:14pm

2. Salute to the flag

3. Recognize the public and ask for comments on agenda items only - None

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

4. It was moved by Ms. Brody and seconded by Ms. Steinberg and carried by unanimous voice vote, to move into Executive Session at 7:07 pm for the purpose of discussing 2 HIB cases.

The Board of Directors meeting returned to open session at 7:13 p.m. on motion of Ms. Ryan and seconded by Ms. Moteiro, and carried, by unanimous voice vote.

MINUTES:

5. It was moved by Ms. Best seconded by Ms. Brody, and carried by voice vote, to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of October 2, 2024.

(Att. 1)

Abstain:

Jacobs

Steinberg

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

Dr. Jason Balsamello, the Principal of Hillcrest Academy South shared an overview of Hillcrest Academy South.

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

6. Motion to approve the Report of the Superintendent dated November 2024

(Att. 2)

FINANCE:

It was moved by Ms. Ryan, seconded by Ms. Brody, and carried by roll call vote, to approve items #7-11:

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

Board Secretary Report dated September 2024

(Att. 3)

Budget Report dated October 2024

(Att. 4)

Check Register for the month ended October 2024 in the amount of \$6,130,921.97

(Att. 5)

Budget transfers for October 2024

(Att. 6)

8. 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

FINANCE: (Cont'd):

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 October 2024

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

9. Motion to approve the attached October 2024 check register for the School Lunch Account with a total of \$2051.78

(Att. 7)

10. Motion to approve facilities fees for the 24-25 school year of \$70 per hour for community organizations use of the 1571 Lamberts Mill Road Gymnasium.

11. Motion to approve an offer for the purchase of 53 Cardinal Drive, Westfield NJ 07090 at an amount not to exceed \$7,500,000 plus associated attorney and architect fees not to exceed \$100,000 contingent on an appraisal that is no less than 95% of the sales price.

Ayes: Aklonis, Jacobs, Koenig, Best, Motiero, Brody, Ryan, Steinberg & Weiss

Nays: None

Abstain: None

PROGRAMS:

It was moved by Ms. Best, and seconded by Ms. Moteiro, and carried by roll call vote, to approve items #12 - 16:

12. Motion to approve the agreement with Alta Pediatrics to be used for OT services for non-public schools from October 1, 2024 to July 2025 as per attachment

(Att. 8)

13. Motion to approve a new Consensus Map (curriculum)

(Att. 9)

14. Motion to approve a Data Sharing Agreement between UCESC and HESAA (Higher Education Student Assistance Authority)

(Att. 10)

15. Motion to approve part time tuition fees for postgraduate students at Lamberts Mill Academy at a per diem rate of \$350 and half day rate of \$175

16. Motion to approve MOU with KinderSmile for dental services for Crossroads and Westlake students

(Att. 11)

Ayes: Aklonis, Jacobs, Koenig, Best, Motiero, Brody, Ryan, Steinberg & Weiss

Nays: None

Abstain: None

TRANSPORTATION:

It was moved by Ms. Best, and seconded by Ms. Brody, and carried by roll call vote, to approve items #17-20:

17. Motion to approve the attached Emergency/Negotiated contracts (Att. 12)
18. Motion to approve Amendments to Existing Transportation Contracts dated November 6, 2024, in accordance with the contractual provisions relative to adjusted and the contractor's bid for adjusted miles (Att. 13)
19. Motion to approve Emergency Contract payments for the month of October to the listed contractors at the cost indicated (Att. 14)
20. Motion to approve the bid results of Special Education and Vocational Transportation Bid dated 10/16/24 (Att. 15)

Ayes: Aklonis, Jacobs, Koenig, Best, Motiero, Brody, Ryan, & Weiss

Nays: None

Abstain: Steinberg

POLICIES AND REGULATIONS:

It was moved by Ms. Ryan, and seconded by Ms. Best, and carried by roll call vote, to approve items #21 & 22:

21. Motion to approve the following policy and regulation for a first reading:

P 8600 STUDENT TRANSPORTATION (M) (Revised)

R 8600A STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS FOR UNION COUNTY COORDINATED SPECIAL EDUCATION TRANSPORTATION (Revised)
22. Motion to approve the following new and/or revised policy and regulations for a second reading and adoption:

R 5530 SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Ayes: Aklonis, Jacobs, Koenig, Best, Motiero, Brody, Ryan, & Weiss

Nays: None

Abstain: Steinberg

TRAVEL AND RELATED EXPENSES:

It was moved by Ms. Motiero and seconded by Ms. Best, and carried by roll call vote, to approve item #23:

23. 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: Aklonis, Jacobs, Koenig, Best, Motiero, Brody, Ryan, Steinberg & Weiss

Nays: None

Abstain: None

PERSONNEL:

It was moved by Ms. Brody, and seconded by Ms. Ryan, and carried by roll call vote, to approve items #24 & 25:

24. Motion to approve the personnel agenda dated November 6, 2024 as recommended by the Superintendent and motion to approve Sarah Cooke for PT Registered Behavior Technician at Work Readiness Academy. (Att. 17)
25. Motion to approve a sidebar agreement with the Westlake Teachers Association for the duration of the contract, which ends on June 30, 2028, a part-time RBT stipend position will be created for the Work Readiness Academy. This position must be filled by a current Teacher Assistant and will receive an annual stipend of \$3500.00, which will be prorated if the position begins after September 1 of any year.

Ayes: Aklonis, Jacobs, Koenig, Best, Motiero, Brody, Ryan, Steinberg & Weiss

Nays: None

Abstain: None

SUSPENSION/HIB REPORT:

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

26. Motion to approve the Suspension/HIB Report for October 2024

(Att. 18)

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

RECOGNIZE THE PUBLIC: Dr. Balsamello spoke in favor of the facilities upgrade.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 4, 2024 in the second floor conference room at 45 Cardinal Drive, Westfield, N.J.

ADJOURNMENT:

On the motion of Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Koenig and carried by unanimous voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.



Eric Larson, Board Secretary