

Union County Educational Services Commission

Board of Directors Meeting

April 2, 2025

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER:

This meeting was posted in accordance with the Open Public Meetings act PL 1975 Chapter 231.
The meeting was called to order at 7:01pm.

1. Attendance Roll Call

Roll call by verbal roll call. There were present:

Berkeley Heights	Ms. Gale Bradford
Clark	Ms. Lorraine j. Aklonis
Cranford	Mr. Brett Dreyer
Elizabeth	Mr. Jerry Jacobs
Garwood	Ms. Christine Guerriero
Hillside	Ms. Laquana Best
Kenilworth	
Linden	
Mountainside	
New Providence	Ms. Laura Castellano
Plainfield	
Rahway	Ms. Jennifer Moteiro
Roselle	Dr. Courtney Washington
Roselle Park	
Scotch Plains/Fanwood	Ms. Debora Brody
Springfield	Ms. Tracy Rinaldi
Summit	
Union	
U. C. Vo-Tech	Ms. Gwen Ryan
Westfield	Ms. Julie Steinberg*
Winfield	
Superintendent	Ms. Carrie Dattillo
Board Secretary	Mr. Eric Larson

* arrived at 7:14pm

2. Salute to the flag

3. Recognize the public and ask for comments on agenda items only – None
4. Introduction of the 2024-2025 school year Union County Teacher Recognition Award recipients:

Crossroads School: Dina Brigandi, Occupational Therapist
Hillcrest Academy North: Lilian Flores, Teacher of Spanish
Hillcrest Academy South: Regina Fernandez-Siejack, Teacher of Mathematics
Lamberts Mill Academy: Suzanne Schneider, Teacher of Music
Non-Public Services: Pat Cero, Special Education Teacher
Westlake School: Asher Kurtz-Freilich, Special Education Teacher

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

5. It was moved by Ms. Guerriero and seconded by Dr. Washington and carried by unanimous voice vote, to move into Executive Session at 7:14 pm for the purpose of discussing 2 HIB cases and a legal matter.

The Board of Directors meeting returned to open session at 7:20 p.m. on motion of Ms. Guerriero and seconded by Ms. Best, and carried, by unanimous voice vote.

MINUTES:

6. It was moved by Ms. Bradford seconded by Ms. Ryan, and carried by voice vote, to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of March 5, 2025

(Att. 1)

Abstain:

Dreyer
Jacobs
Guerriero
Washington
Brody
Rinaldi
Steinberg

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

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

7. Motion to approve the Report of the Superintendent for March, 2025 (Att. 2)

*Crossroads Principal and Supervisor gave an overview of their program.

FINANCE:

It was moved by Ms. Best, seconded by Dr. Washington, and carried by roll call vote, to approve items #8-11:

8. Motion to approve the Secretary's Financial Report:
Board Secretary's Report dated February 28, 2025 (Att. 3)
Detailed Budget Report dated March 31, 2025 (Att. 4)
Check Register for the month ended in 3/31/25 the amount of \$8,603,104.03 (Att. 5)
Budget adjustments and line-item transfers for March 2025 (Att. 6)
9. 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 March 2025

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

10. Motion to approve the attached March 2025 check register for the School Lunch Account (Att. 7)
11. Motion to approve Tenant Option in Lease of 970 Suburban Road, Union, NJ for the extension of the lease period to 6.20.27 (Att. 8)

Ayes: Bradford, Aklonis, Dreyer, Jacobs, Guerriero, Best, Castellano, Moteiro, Washington, Brody, Rinaldi, Ryan & Steinberg

Nays: None

Abstain: None

PROGRAMS:

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

12. Motion to move the May 7, 2025 board meeting to May 14, 2025 at the same time and location
13. Motion to approve Perez Landscaping for our landscaping needs at 45 Cardinal Drive, 1571 Lamberts Mill Rd and 2630 Plainfield Ave for the 2025 school year not to exceed \$20,000
14. Motion to approve a contact for Patrick Cerria of TumbleJam Music to provide enrichment instruction in the Extended School Year Program at Crossroads School, Lamberts Mill Academy and Westlake School at the rate of \$125.00 per hour for 6 hours per week from June 30 - August 8, 2025 (closed July 4)
15. Motion to approve a contract for Paul Del Sordo of Del Martial Arts to provide enrichment instruction in the Extended School Year at Crossroads School and Westlake School at the rate of \$135.00 per hour for 5 hours per week from June 30 - August 8, 2025 (closed July 4)
16. Motion to approve the KultureCity Sensory Inclusive Certification Agreement (Att. 9)

Ayes: Bradford, Aklonis, Dreyer, Jacobs, Guerriero, Best, Castellano, Moteiro, Washington, Brody, Rinaldi, Ryan & Steinberg

Nays: None

Abstain: None

TRANSPORTATION:

It was moved by Ms. Ryan, seconded by Ms. Best, and carried by roll call vote, to approve items #17-21:

17. Motion to approve the attached Emergency/Negotiated contracts dated April 2, 2025 (Att. 10)
18. Motion to approve Amendments to Existing Transportation Contracts dated April 2, 2025 (Att. 11)
19. Motion to approve the attached penalty deductions (Att. 12)

TRANSPORTATION (Cont'd):

20. Motion to approve the results of Special Education & Vocational Transportation bid dated March 19, 2025 (Att. 13)
21. Motion to approve Emergency Contractor payments for the month of March 2025 (Att. 14)

Ayes: Bradford, Aklonis, Dreyer, Jacobs, Guerriero, Best, Castellano, Moteiro, Washington, Brody, Rinaldi, Ryan & Steinberg

Nays: None Abstain: None

POLICIES AND REGULATIONS:

It was moved by Ms. Rinaldi, seconded by Ms. Bradford, and carried by roll call vote, to approve item #22:

22. Motion to approve the following new and/or revised bylaws, policies, or regulations for a second reading and adoption:
- R 8600A Standard Specifications for Union County Coordinated Special Education Transportation

Ayes: Bradford, Aklonis, Dreyer, Jacobs, Guerriero, Best, Castellano, Moteiro, Washington, Brody, Rinaldi, Ryan & Steinberg

Nays: None Abstain: None

TRAVEL AND RELATED EXPENSES:

It was moved by Ms. Motiero, seconded by Ms. Brody, 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 Related Expense Reimbursement Form (Att. 15)

Ayes: Bradford, Aklonis, Dreyer, Jacobs, Guerriero, Best, Castellano, Moteiro, Washington, Brody, Rinaldi, Ryan & Steinberg

Nays: None Abstain: None

PERSONNEL:

It was moved by Ms. Guerriero, seconded by Ms. Ryan, and carried by roll call vote, to approve items #24-27:

24. Motion to approve the Personnel Agenda dated April 2, 2025 as recommended by the Superintendent. (Att. 16)
25. Motion to approve the ESY Personnel Agenda (Internal & External) dated April 2, 2025 as recommended by the Superintendent. (Att. 17)
26. Motion to approve the 2025 Summer Transportation Staff (Att. 18)
27. Motion to approve the revised 2024-2025 school calendars for Work Readiness Academy, Non-Public Schools and the UCESC District Calendar. (Att.19-21)

Ayes: Bradford, Aklonis, Dreyer, Jacobs, Guerriero, Best, Castellano, Moteiro, Washington, Brody, Rinaldi, Ryan & Steinberg

Nays: None

Abstain: None

SUSPENSION REPORT:

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

28. Motion to approve the Suspension Report for March 2025 (Att. 22)

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

RECOGNIZE THE PUBLIC: None

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 14, 2025 in the second floor conference room at 45 Cardinal Drive, Westfield, N.J.

ADJOURNMENT:

On the motion of Ms. Rinaldi seconded by Ms. Guerriero and carried by unanimous voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.


Eric Larson, Board Secretary