

**Union County Educational Services Commission
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
January 14, 2026**

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 7:03pm.

1. Attendance Roll Call

Roll call by verbal roll call. There were present:

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Berkeley Heights | |
| Clark | Ms. Lorraine j. Aklonis |
| Cranford | |
| Elizabeth | |
| Garwood | |
| Hillside | Ms. Laquana Best |
| Kenilworth | Dr. Michelle Panichi |
| Linden | |
| Mountainside | Ms. Dana Guidici Pietro * |
| New Providence | Ms. Amy Lepre |
| 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 |

*arrived during Executive Session

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 Dr. Panichi and seconded by Ms. Ryan and carried by unanimous voice vote to move into Executive Session at 7:04 pm for the purpose of discussing a HIB case.

The Board of Directors meeting returned to open session at 7:08 p.m. on motion of Ms. Brody and seconded by Ms. Best, and carried, by unanimous voice vote.

END OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION

MINUTES:

5. It was moved by Ms. Moteiro seconded by Ms. Best, and carried by voice vote, to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of December 3, 2025

(Att. 1)

Abstain:
Panichi
Lepre

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

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

6. Motion to approve the Report of the Superintendent for January 2026

(Att. 2)

*The administration presented an overview of the Transition Services Program

FINANCE:

It was moved by Ms. Ryan, seconded by Dr. Panichi, and carried by roll call vote, to approve items #7-10:

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

Board Secretary's Report dated November 2025 (Att. 3)

Detailed Budget Report & Summary Budget Report dated 12/31/25 (Att. 4)

Detailed Check Register dated 12/31/25 (Att. 5)

Budget adjustments and line item transfers for December 2025 (Att. 6)

8. Motion to approve the attached check register for the School Lunch Account December 2025

(Att. 7)

FINANCE (Cont'd):

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 December 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 Methfessel & Werbel, P.C., to continue to provide legal services to UCESC at the rates of \$195 for partners and counsel; and \$175 for associates. All work to be done by paralegals and law clerks shall be billed at the hourly rate of \$75.00

(Att. 8)

Ayes: Aklonis, Best, Panichi, Guidici Pietro, Lepre, Moteiro, Brody, Ryan, Steinberg, & Weiss

Nays: None

Abstain: None

PROGRAMS:

It was moved by Ms. Best, seconded by Dr. Guidici Pietro, and carried by roll call vote, to approve item #11:

11. Motion to approve the Schedule of Tuitions, Fees and Surcharges for the Union County Educational Services Commission's Programs and Services for the 2026-2027 school year
(Att. 9)

Ayes: Aklonis, Best, Panichi, Guidici Pietro, Lepre, Moteiro, Brody, Ryan, Steinberg, & Weiss

Nays: None

Abstain: None

TRANSPORTATION:

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

12. Motion to approve the attached Emergency/Negotiated contracts dated January 14, 2026 (Att.10)
13. Motion to approve Amendments to Existing Transportation Contracts dated January 14, 2026, in accordance with the contractual provisions relative to adjusted mileage and the contractor's bid for adjusted miles (Att. 11)
14. Motion to approve the attached penalty deductions for December 2025 (Att. 12)
15. Motion to approve Emergency Contract payments for the month of December to the listed contractors at the costs indicated (Att. 13)
16. Motion to approve transportation bid results dated December 16, 2025 (Att. 14)

Ayes: Aklonis, Best, Panichi, Guidici Pietro, Lepre, Moteiro, Brody, Ryan, Steinberg, & Weiss

Nays: None Abstain: None

POLICIES AND REGULATIONS:

It was moved by Ms. Best, seconded by Ms. Lepre, and carried by roll call vote, to approve item #17:

17. Motion to approve the following new and/or revised bylaws, policies, or regulations for a second reading and adoption:
 - P9130 PUBLIC COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES (Revised)
 - P2535 LIBRARY MATERIAL (New)
 - P2530 RESOURCE MATERIALS (Revised)
 - R 9130 PUBLIC COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES (Revised)
 - R 2535 LIBRARY MATERIAL (New)
 - R 2530 RESOURCE MATERIALS (Revised)

POLICIES AND REGULATIONS (Cont'd):

Motion to approve the following new and/or revised policy and regulations for a first reading:

| | |
|---------|---|
| P0142.1 | NEPOTISM |
| P1220 | EMPLOYMENT OF CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR |
| R1552 | SEXUAL HARASSMENT STAFF |
| P1552 | SEXUAL HARASSMENT STAFF |
| P3362 | SEXUAL HARASSMENT (M) |
| R3362 | SEXUAL HARASSMENT (M) |
| R4532 | SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS COMPLAINT PROCEDURES |
| P4532 | SEXUAL HARASSMENT (M) |

Ayes: Aklonis, Best, Panichi, Guidici Pietro, Lepre, Moteiro, Brody, Ryan, Steinberg, & Weiss

Nays: None

Abstain: None

PERSONNEL:

It was moved by Ms. Motiero, seconded by Dr. Panichi, and carried by roll call vote, to approve item #18:

18. Motion to approve the personnel agenda dated January 14, 2026 as recommended by the Superintendent

(Att. 16)

Ayes: Aklonis, Best, Panichi, Guidici Pietro, Lepre, Moteiro, Brody, Ryan, Steinberg, & Weiss

Nays: None

Abstain: None

SUSPENSION/HIB REPORT:

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

19. Motion to approve the Suspension/HIB Report for December 2025

(Att. 17)

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, February 4, 2026** in the second floor conference room at 45 Cardinal Drive, Westfield, N.J.

ADJOURNMENT:

On the motion of Dr. Guidici Pietro seconded by Ms. Lepre and carried by unanimous voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Larson", is written over a horizontal line.

Eric Larson, Board Secretary