



Steven Jackopsic <sjackopsic@unionschool.net>

FW: Union Board of Education Tuition Policy

Sommaruga, Mark J. <msommaruga@pullcom.com>

Tue, Oct 6, 2026 at 11:16 AM

To: David Ryan <david.ryan@ryan-ryan.net>

Cc: Mike McKeon <Mike.McKeon@ct.gov>, Thomas Lepore <thomas.lepore@ryan-ryan.net>, office <office@ryan-ryan.net>

I am happy to forward the emails that I have between the parties (see below). I think that my description of events is supported by these emails, but would prefer not to turn this into World War III.

However, Union repeats its willingness to meet with Woodstock Academy, as per its September 23, 2026 e-mail to Woodstock (which was based upon Dave's September 21, 2026 suggestion of a meeting between the parties without attorneys).

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Lawrence Filippelli, Ed.D.** <lfilippelli@woodstockacademy.org>

Date: Tue, Sep 29, 2026 at 8:53 AM

Subject: Re: Meeting

To: Steven Jackopsic <sjackopsic@unionschool.net>

Cc: David Ryan <david.ryan@ryan-ryan.net>

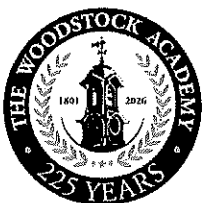
Steve,

I do appreciate the coffee offer. But, as I have stated repeatedly, I do not believe an off-site meeting for this matter is appropriate.

Today I am sending this to our attorney for review and advice regarding next steps.

Best,

Larry



Lawrence Filippelli, Ed.D.

Head of School

The Woodstock Academy

57 Academy Road

Woodstock, CT 06281

(860) 928-6575 ext. 1111



From: Steven Jackopsic <sjackopsic@unionschool.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 8:23 AM
To: Lawrence Filippelli, Ed.D. <lfilippelli@woodstockacademy.org>
Subject: Re: Meeting

This message originated from outside of The Woodstock Academy. Please be careful when responding, clicking links, or opening attached documents.

Good morning,

Hope you had a good weekend. Just wanted to follow up on this email about availability of off-site meeting dates.

Thanks!
Steve

On Thu, Sep 24, 2026 at 2:27 PM Steven Jackopsic <sjackopsic@unionschool.net> wrote:

Good afternoon,

Let me know your availability of other dates for an off-site meeting. Coffee is on me.
Steve

On Thu, Sep 24, 2026 at 9:10 AM Lawrence Filippelli, Ed.D. <lfilippelli@woodstockacademy.org> wrote:

Steve,

Since we can't agree on a meeting location, please email me your off the record thoughts or any off the record proposals that you want me to review.

Best

Larry



Lawrence Filippelli, Ed.D.

Head of School

The Woodstock Academy

57 Academy Road

Woodstock, CT 06281

(860) 928-
6575 ext. 1111



From: Steven Jackopsic <sjackopsic@unionschool.net>
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2026 2:06 PM
To: Lawrence Filippelli, Ed.D. <lfilippelli@woodstockacademy.org>
Subject: Re: Meeting

This message originated from outside of The Woodstock Academy. Please be careful when responding, clicking links, or opening attached documents.

Hi Larry,

October 7th at 9:00 a.m. works for me. As I mentioned in my previous email, I'd prefer that we meet off-site at a neutral location.

It may also be helpful for you to connect with Chris ahead of our meeting to gather any relevant information or documents that might be useful to have on hand.

My hope is that we can use this meeting primarily as an opportunity to have an off the record/cordial conversation about the process. I don't anticipate any commitments or decisions at the conclusion of the meeting. This should give everyone an opportunity to have additional conversations and gather any information that may be helpful moving forward.

I look forward to talking with you on the 7th.

Steve

On Wed, Sep 23, 2026 at 12:09 PM Lawrence Filippelli, Ed.D. <lfilippelli@woodstockacademy.org> wrote:

Hi, Steve

I am available to have a meeting with you on October 7 or October 9 for the purposes of discussing a possible settlement to the State Department of Education case. I have between 8 AM and noon open on both of those dates if they work on your end.

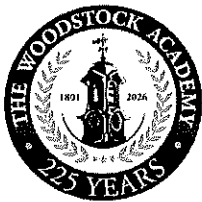
I have some good coffee and espresso here! So, I propose that the meeting be held in my office so that I have the ability review documents that may be pertinent to our settlement discussion at any breaks in our meeting. In addition, I may need to call Chris privately outside of my office to discuss events which occurred before my arrival at The Academy so I can get a perspective on past negotiations and contracts.

Please let me know if these proposed dates and location are acceptable.

Take care.

Best,

Larry



Lawrence Filippelli, Ed.D.

Head of School

The Woodstock Academy

57 Academy Road

Woodstock, CT
06281

(860) 928-
6575 ext. 1111



From: Steven Jackopsic <sjackopsic@unionschool.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 11:01 AM
To: Lawrence Filippelli, Ed.D. <lfilippelli@woodstockacademy.org>
Subject: Meeting

This message originated from outside of The Woodstock Academy. Please be careful when responding, clicking links, or opening attached documents.

Hi Larry,

I hope you had a good weekend. As you are aware, our school attorneys have been going back and forth about setting up a meeting to resolve our high school issue. The latest correspondence that I am aware of had The Woodstock Academy attorney suggesting that the two of us meet privately in person to see if a path exists to resolve this matter. I recognize that we both have different viewpoints on this, but I am open to having a conversation and would like to meet off school grounds (perhaps a local coffee shop?).

Let me know your availability, and we can go from there.

Steve

Steven J. Jackopsic

Union School District Superintendent

Union School Principal

18 Kinney Hollow Rd.

Union, CT 06076

860-684-3146 (ext. 105)

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Mark J. Sommaruga, Esq.
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T 860 424 4388 • msommaruga@pullcom.com

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From: David Ryan <david.ryan@ryan-ryan.net>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 11:05 AM
To: Sommaruga, Mark J. <msommaruga@pullcom.com>
Cc: Mike McKeon <Mike.McKeon@ct.gov>; Thomas Lepore <thomas.lepore@ryan-ryan.net>; office <office@ryan-ryan.net>
Subject: Re: Union Board of Education Tuition Policy

Mike.

We disagree with Mark's characterization of the meeting situation and will send our version of the events in a separate email.

We do not believe mediation will be productive and request that you move this matter forward.

Thanks.

Dave

DAVID A. RYAN, JR.
The Employer's Lawyers

Ryan & Ryan, LLC |900 Chapel Street, Suite 621|New Haven, CT 06510
O |203.752.9794F |203.785.1547M |860.460.7139E |david.ryan @ryan-ryan.net

<https://www.workplacelawyer.com/>

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On Oct 6, 2026, at 10:47 AM, Sommaruga, Mark J. <msommaruga@pullcom.com> wrote:

Hi Mike

Just to fill you on the situation (and trying my best to remain non-argumentative).

The Union Board of Education (via its Superintendent) had tried to schedule a meeting with Woodstock Academy (specifically, its Head of School). Union's Superintendent offered to meet with Woodstock Academy's Head of School at a neutral site. Unfortunately, it currently appears that Woodstock Academy via its responses to Union's request only wants to meet with Union if Union meets with it **at** Woodstock Academy.

I would like to move this along. To break this logjam, I believe that maybe we should go back to Union's original request: a meeting at and with the CSDE (preferably in person), with Woodstock Academy and Union (but without their attorneys).

Thank you.

Mark

Mark J. Sommaruga, Esq.
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From: McKeon, Mike <Mike.McKeon@ct.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 2:23 PM
To: Sommaruga, Mark J. <msommaruga@pullcom.com>; David Ryan <david.ryan@ryan-ryan.net>
Cc: Thomas Lepore <thomas.lepore@ryan-ryan.net>; office <office@ryan-ryan.net>
Subject: RE: Union Board of Education Tuition Policy

David & Mark:

Thank you for looping me in. This works for me. In fact, I sometimes do my best work when I do nothing at all. No need to hold those dates. Thank you again, and please keep me posted.

Mike

<image001.png>

From: Sommaruga, Mark J. <msommaruga@pullcom.com>
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 2:18 PM
To: David Ryan <david.ryan@ryan-ryan.net>; McKeon, Mike <Mike.McKeon@ct.gov>
Cc: Thomas Lepore <thomas.lepore@ryan-ryan.net>; office <office@ryan-ryan.net>
Subject: RE: Union Board of Education Tuition Policy

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Dave-Thank you

Mike-As such, I assume that I can release the dates that I was holding for a meeting between you and Union and Woodstock (September 28 and 29)?

Mark J. Sommaruga, Esq.
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T 860 424 4388 • msommaruga@pullcom.com

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From: David Ryan <david.ryan@ryan-ryan.net>
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 2:12 PM

To: Sommaruga, Mark J. <msommaruga@pullcom.com>; McKeon, Mike <Mike.McKeon@ct.gov>
Cc: Thomas Lepore <thomas.lepore@ryan-ryan.net>; office <office@ryan-ryan.net>
Subject: RE: Union Board of Education Tuition Policy

Mark,

Thanks. Please have your client contact the Head of School when he can.

DAVID A. RYAN, JR.

The Employer's Lawyers

Ryan & Ryan, LLC | 900 Chapel Street, Suite 621|New Haven, CT 06510

O |203.752.9794 F |203.785.1547 M |860.460.7139 E |david.ryan @ryan-ryan.net

<https://www.workplacelawyer.com/>

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From: McKeon, Mike <Mike.McKeon@ct.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 12:58 PM
To: Sommaruga, Mark J. <msommaruga@pullcom.com>
Cc: David Ryan <david.ryan@ryan-ryan.net>
Subject: RE: Union Board of Education Tuition Policy

Hey, Mark, thank you for your e-mail. I have no problem with representatives of the parties being part of this meeting; I think that could prove constructive. Congratulations on the serendipitous settlement of your due process hearing. As for the dates you have proposed, and based upon meetings currently on my schedule, I can do September 28 at anytime after 11:30 and anytime up to 3:30 on September 29. If these dates and windows work at David's end, then I will send a TEAMS invitation to the both of you, which you can then forward to whomever you intend to include. Thanks again!

Mike

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From: Sommaruga, Mark J. <msommaruga@pullcom.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2026 12:00 PM
To: McKeon, Mike <Mike.McKeon@ct.gov>
Cc: David Ryan <david.ryan@ryan-ryan.net>
Subject: RE: Union Board of Education Tuition Policy

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Hi Mike

Please see our attached response.

For purposes of full disclosure, the Union Board of Education is making available to the public all relevant records in this matter, including the CSDE's FOIA response (minus certain parent letters, out of FERPA concerns due to Union being a small community), your July 31, 2026 letter and this response letter. This posting of materials is **not** for purposes of agitation or criticizing/embarrassing any entity or anyone (including even myself), but rather the Union Board of Education promised full transparency to Union residents when the Board met on September 9, 2026. Indeed, persons in attendance at that meeting asked that Union post these materials on its website, which it is doing out of respect of their wishes.

Thank you.

Mark

—

Mark J. Sommaruga, Esq.
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From: McKeon, Mike <Mike.McKeon@ct.gov>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2026 3:55 PM
To: Sommaruga, Mark J. <msommaruga@pullcom.com>
Cc: David Ryan <david.ryan@ryan-ryan.net>
Subject: Union Board of Education Tuition Policy

Hey, Mark. Please see my attached correspondence regarding the Union Board of Education's apparent partial-tuition-payment policy for its resident students who attend or wish to attend Woodstock Academy. Also attached is an applicable Attorney General Opinion. I'm sorry to drop this on you on a Friday afternoon, but our network was down yesterday, so could not send it then. Thank you and take care.

Mike

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