



Steven Jackopsic <sjackopsic@unionschool.net>

FW: Union Board of Education Tuition Policy

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

Tue, Oct 13, 2026 at 8:31 AM

To: "Steven Jackopsic (sjackopsic@unionschool.net)" <sjackopsic@unionschool.net>

Here is what I sent on Friday

Mark J. Sommaruga, Esq.
Pullman & Comley LLC
T 860 424 4388 • msommaruga@pullcom.com

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From: Sommaruga, Mark J.
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 1:48 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

Mike and Dave

I do not believe that there is any dispute with respect to the existence of a contract between Union and Woodstock Academy. Without knowing more, it appears that any issues and the respective positions of the parties are set forth in the March 2026 letters between counsel. Simply stating that Woodstock Academy's position is that there is a contract does not really add anything to the discussion.

The emails between the parties over the attempt to schedule a meeting speak for itself, and I will not comment further on them.

As we have indicated previously, Union's Superintendent (and I) are willing to meet in person with Mike and/or the Commissioner's offices representative at the CSDE. We hope that Woodstock Academy (and Dave) will also join us and attend such a meeting, and we will of course cooperate with respect to scheduling a meeting at CSDE on a mutually agreeable date and time. We originally suggested such a meeting via our September 10, 2026 correspondence, Mike graciously agreed to have such a meeting, and we were in the process of exchanging dates when Dave instead suggested (I thought appropriately) that we have a meeting just with the parties. Such a meeting has not occurred, but we believe strongly it should occur. Meeting at the CSDE would avoid the continuation of arguments about the shape of the table and relitigating past positions and instead focus on resolving matters.

Thank you.

Mark

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Pullman & Comley LLC
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From: David Ryan <david.ryan@ryan-ryan.net>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 4:24 AM
To: McKeon, Mike <Mike.McKeon@ct.gov>; Sommaruga, Mark J. <msommaruga@pullcom.com>
Cc: Thomas Lepore <thomas.lepore@ryan-ryan.net>; office <office@ryan-ryan.net>
Subject: RE: Union Board of Education Tuition Policy

Mike,

My understanding is that my client's Head of School, after not obtaining resolution on the location for a meeting (did not agree to a coffee shop location) asked for a proposed resolution from the Union Superintendent. He received no proposal.

Before we set up a meeting could we see a proposed resolution from the Union Board of Education?

The Woodstock Academy's position is that it has a contract with Union.

Thanks.

Dave

DAVID A. RYAN, JR.

The Employer's Lawyers

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

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



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From: McKeon, Mike <Mike.McKeon@ct.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 4:38 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

Good afternoon. I apologize for not having been able to follow up yesterday, but in any event, the CSDE remains open to meeting with the parties directly, or with the parties and their respective legal counsel, although we recognize that the parties would prefer to avoid legal fees to the extent possible. While at this juncture there has been no initiation of a Section 10-4b action, I nonetheless note that Section 10-4b-4 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies provides in relevant part: "In the interest of furthering the purpose of the process outlined in Section 10-4b of the General Statutes . . . the Commissioner may, at any stage of the proceedings, call the parties together for a conference." In other words, even were the CSDE to recommend to the State Board of Education that it initiate a Section 10-4b investigation, the CSDE would likely exercise this right under Section 10-4b-4. Given that, I think it would make sense were the parties to cut to the chase and agree to a meeting now.

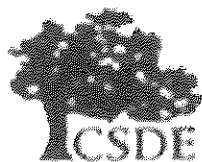
Although there is apparently some contention as to the situs of this proposed sit down, that could be addressed either by having the parties come to the CSDE – although that would obviously entail a lengthy and time-consuming round trip for both parties – or simply convening such meeting virtually. If the latter, I would be happy to send a TEAMS invitation whenever the parties were able to identify some mutual times and dates.

Please understand that the CSDE views this matter as an extremely important one that needs to be resolved one way or the other. Going the 10-4b route is likely going to involve both parties incurring significant legal fees and will undoubtedly take months to reach a conclusion, particularly were this matter to get to an administrative proceeding, although fortunately, that has occurred only once over the past few years. Nonetheless, as the State Board has demonstrated, it takes its mandate under Section 10-4(a) of

the Connecticut General Statutes to exercise "general supervision and control of the educational interests of the state" very seriously. The other option is the one discussed herein. Ultimately, it is the decision of the parties, but it is essential that that decision is made and communicated to me with reasonable alacrity.

Thank you, and I look forward to hearing how the parties choose to proceed. Take care.

Mike McKeon



Michael P. McKeon
Director of Legal and Governmental Affairs

Connecticut State Department of Education
450 Columbus Boulevard
Hartford, CT 06103
Office: 860-713-6517
Mike.McKeon@ct.gov



From: Sommaruga, Mark J. <msommaruga@pullcom.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 12:06 PM
To: McKeon, Mike <Mike.McKeon@ct.gov>; 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

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Thank you and good luck with your brief.

Mark J. Sommaruga, Esq.
Pullman & Comley LLC
T 860 424 4388 • msommaruga@pullcom.com

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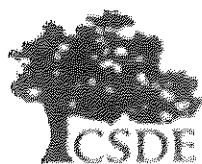
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From: McKeon, Mike <Mike.McKeon@ct.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 12:05 PM
To: Sommaruga, Mark J. <msommaruga@pullcom.com>; David Ryan <david.ryan@ryan-ryan.net>
Cc: Thomas Lepore <thomas.lepore@ryan-ryan.net>; office <office@ryan-ryan.net>
Subject: RE: Union Board of Education Tuition Policy

Mark & David:

Thank you for your e-mails. I am, however, currently working to finalize a post-hearing brief that I have to file today with the FOIC, so I will not be able to follow up more substantively until tomorrow. Thanks again!

Mike



Michael P. McKeon
Director of Legal and Governmental Affairs

Connecticut State Department of Education
450 Columbus Boulevard
Hartford, CT 06103
Office: 860-713-6517
Mike.McKeon@ct.gov



From: Sommaruga, Mark J. <msommaruga@pullcom.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 12:01 PM
To: David Ryan <david.ryan@ryan-ryan.net>
Cc: McKeon, Mike <Mike.McKeon@ct.gov>; Thomas Lepore <thomas.lepore@ryan-ryan.net>; office

<office@ryan-ryan.net>

Subject: RE: Union Board of Education Tuition Policy

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P.S.-One correction-my client's email to Woodstock offering to meet was sent on September 22, 2026, not September 23, 2026.

Mark J. Sommaruga, Esq.

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From: Sommaruga, Mark J.

Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 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>

Subject: RE: Union Board of Education Tuition Policy

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.