

**Union Board of Education Meeting  
Union, CT  
September 11, 2024  
Minutes**

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Andrea Estell

**Attending:** A. Estell, A. Blank, E. Perkins, M. Silbermann, E. Fournier, J. Kavanagh, and Supt./Prin. S. Jackopsic.

**Also Attending:** L. Trinqué, A. Anthony, S. Essery, E. Grabel-Forziati, B. Bousquet and 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman D. Eaton.

**Approval of Minutes:** E. Fournier made a motion to approve the minutes from August 21, 2024. J. Kavanagh seconded. Unanimously approved.

**Individuals to be heard:** none at present

**Communications:** Responses from E.O. Smith regarding questions regarding tuition costs as designated school or optional school, special education costs, possible transportation.

**Administrative Reports & Activity Summary:** The school year opened smoothly. Testing results indicate that gains were made in Mathematics, while English/Language Arts scores leveled out a bit, which was relatively common across the state during the last testing window. The Town Fire Marshal toured the school and suggested thinning out some storage items. The auditors were out to begin the 2023-2024 fiscal audit. Union's 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman referred a \$5,000 active transportation grant opportunity to the school. The grant was awarded and will be used to purchase bicycle helmets and specialized cycling equipment. The school will be holding a "Meet and Greet" on September 26.

**Committee Reports:**

Curriculum: Curriculum Subcommittee will meet to review the State's feedback on the Increasing Educator Diversity Plan. A webinar will be held September 26.

**Communication:** None

**Transportation:** Union and Eastford met with transportation provider EASTCONN. Union's proposed per bus per day rates over the next three years were quoted as \$455.00, \$478.00 and \$502.00, using the existing buses. A. Blank made a motion to direct Mr. Jackopsic to look into other options and/or place bid request. E. Fournier seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Building:** Walkthrough with Fire Marshal-See Administrative Reports.

**Personnel:** Reviewed Administrative Assistant's contract given addition of accounting and other responsibilities.

**EASTCONN:** No recent board meetings. A. Blank will inquire about transportation increase at next EASTCONN Board meeting.

## **Financial Report**

**Review of Bills:** Supt./Prin. Jackopsic reviewed the bills with The Board.

**2023-2024 BOE Spending Plan Final Adjustments:** Supt./Prin. Jackopsic presented the end of year adjustments to the budget with The Board. A. Blank made a motion to accept the budget adjustments as presented. M. Silbermann seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**2024-2025 BOE Spending Plan:** Spending is on target at this point in time.

**Old Business:** None

## **New Business**

**Transportation Contract:** Discussion of the Union/Eastford meeting with EASTCONN continued. The stated increase is 30+% for next year totaling a \$40K+ increase.

**High School Discussion of Next Steps:** Supt./Prin. Jackopsic presented an option used in Hartland, CT that would allow for a designated high school and a separate parental agreement for those who desired to send their children to other high schools. The district would reimburse a parent up to the amount of the designated school's tuition. Transportation would be provided by the parent. The Board also agreed to invite Woodstock Academy out to a BOE meeting to answer some questions.

**Individuals To Be Heard:** Some parents attending the meeting advocated to charge for preschool registration fees to assist with the increase in high school tuition.

**Adjournment:** A Blank made a motion to adjourn the meeting. J. Kavanagh seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with the meeting adjourning at 8:04 p.m.