

Union Board of Education Special Meeting

Union, CT 06076
Wednesday, February 19, 2025 at 6:30 pm

Union School Library

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 6:37 pm by Andrea Estell.

Attending: A. Estell, A. Blank, E. Fournier, J. Kavanagh, E. Perkins.
M. Silbermann was absent.
Sup./Prin. S. Jackopsic, M. Powers, Rec. Secretary
Others Attending: Union School parents and students

A. Blank made a motion to move item 8a (Old Business) to the end of the meeting. E. Perkins seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes

E. Fournier made a motion to approve the minutes from January 8 and 22, 2025. Seconded by J. Kavanagh. Unanimously approved.

Individuals to be heard- One of the parents noted the 8th grade students will be registering for high school soon.

Communications: Sup./Prin. Jackopsic received a letter from State Sen. Jeff Gordon about the recent ECS funding projections in the Governor's proposed budget.

Administrative Reports and Activities Summary

a. Superintendent's Report- We recently celebrated 100 days of school. We've had two snow days. The snow/ice mix has been cleared after recent storm. June 11 is currently the last day of school. Schools have received information regarding ICE, explaining judicial warrants and administrative warrants. Bathroom lights have been replaced and a few other various lights in the building. HVAC maintenance has been recently performed. We are waiting on a part to correct a damper issue. Curriculum is being reviewed for science and social studies. Transportation has been going well. Mid-year assessments have taken place. State Rep. Kurt Vail will be visiting the middle school and explain to students how a bill becomes a law. DARE has resumed with Trooper White teaching the course once again. Mr. Sarkany will be visiting us again on Feb. 25 to share his Holocaust story with the middle school students. In art class, Ms. Frye had the students make Valentine's Day cards for veterans and seniors. Our music concert is March 11. The school musical is April 5. The Safety Committee meets next week.

Committee Reports

a. Curriculum- Science and Social Studies being reviewed as stated in Superintendent/Principal's Report.

b. Communication- none.

c. Transportation- none.

d. Personnel- none.

e. Building- HVAC repairs are being made.

f. EASTCONN- none.

Financial Report

a. Review of bills- The bills were reviewed and in order.

b. 2024-2025 BOE Spending Plan-There will be an additional cost for changing companies for the second bus this school year that began in January.

New Business

a. Discussion/possible action on draft E.O. Smith, Stafford High School and Woodstock Academy agreements (Possible Executive Session)- A. Blank made a motion to go into executive session to review E.O. Smith, Stafford High School and Woodstock Academy draft documents as the public interest in withholding access to such draft agreements clearly outweighs the disclosure of these items, and I hereby move to invite Steve Jackopsic into Executive Session. J. Kavanagh seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried. The meeting entered executive session at 6:49 pm. Executive session ended at 7:39 pm.

A. Blank made a motion to accept and approve the E.O. Smith 5-year contract, the Woodstock Academy 3-year contract and the Stafford High School 2-year contract agreements, pending legal counsel. E. Perkins seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried.

b. Discussion/possible action on adoption of High School policy (Possible waiver of second reading)- E.O. Smith High School is the designated school for the 2025-2026 school year. A. Blank made a motion that the second reading is waived and to approve the high school policy, as amended, pending any further legal review. E. Fournier seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried.

Old Business

a. 2025-26 Spending Plan-With the high school agreements approved, a reduction of \$37,000.00 is able to be made to the 25-25 Spending Plan. A. Blank made a motion to amend the current budget with the \$37,000.00 reduction (6% overall increase) to present to the Board of Finance. J. Kavanagh seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried.

Individuals to be heard- There were several questions about tuition clarification and registration dates for the three high schools.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:18 pm. by J. Kavanagh. A. Blank seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Michele Powers, Recording Secretary.