

**UTICA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
Joan C. Sergent Instructional Resource Center
14201 Canal Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48313
Regular Meeting
Link no longer active
May 18, 2026
7:00 p.m.**

Present: Smolenski, Nesovski, Fitzpatrick, Austerman

Absent: Meyer, Rankin, Becker

1. Purpose

Board of Education President Dr. Mary Smolenski welcomed everyone to the regular Board of Education meeting.

2. Meeting Called to Order

Motion by Fitzpatrick, support by Austerman, to call the meeting to order.

Motion carried 4-0.

President Smolenski called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Call to order was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dr. Smolenski stated that due to the absence of Secretary Mrs. Rankin, Mrs. Nesovski was appointed as the acting secretary for tonight's meeting.

Motion by Austerman, support by Fitzpatrick, to appoint Mrs. Nesovski as the acting secretary for tonight's meeting.

Motion carried 4-0.

4. Minutes

Motion by Nesovski, support by Austerman, that the minutes from the last meeting be approved, as presented.

Motion carried 4-0.

5A. DECA, SkillsUSA, HOSA, FCCLA, Welding Competitions

Dr. Mark Dziatczak, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, stated that Utica Community Schools endeavors to provide life-changing learning experiences for students so that they can change their world for the better. The UCS Empowered Strategic Plan calls on UCS to explore and implement additional community partnerships throughout UCS focusing on Career and Technical Education. This evening, we recognize students who have excelled in the Career and Technical Education (CTE) competitions in the arenas of Michigan Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) State Conference, SkillsUSA, Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) - Future Health Professionals, Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) and Secondary Welding Competitors. These students are on a path toward future success and prosperity.

DECA is an association of students who are planning careers in marketing, finance, hospitality, management and entrepreneurship. Michigan DECA has more than 8,200 high school members in DECA chapters at 156 high schools and area career centers. Tonight, we recognize the national level qualifiers that represented Utica Community Schools at the DECA International Conference in Atlanta, Georgia held this past April 2026. The students that were in attendance were individually introduced and recognized.

SkillsUSA is a national organization with over 393,000 members from 53 states and territorial associations. SkillsUSA aims to improve the quality of our nation's future skilled workforce by providing quality educational experiences for students in personal, workplace and technical skills grounded in academics. Students who participate in SkillsUSA are sponsored and advised by a CTE instructor and spend many hours outside of the school day preparing for and participating in industry-level competitions.

In April, students competed at the state level conference held in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Students are currently competing at the National Competition in Atlanta, Georgia.

Future Health Professionals of America is an international student organization consisting of 260,000 members from 51 states and territorial associations and six countries. HOSA has over 3,200 secondary and post-secondary chapters, 124 of which are in Michigan. HOSA exists to enhance the delivery of compassionate, quality health care by providing knowledge, skill and leadership development of students interested in healthcare.

In April, students from the Medical Science I, II and Nursing Assistant classes attended the state competition in Traverse City, Michigan. The top three finishers are eligible to compete at the International Competition in Indianapolis, Indiana in June. The students that were in attendance were individually introduced and recognized along with their advisors.

Secondary Welding Competition allows students to compete at a regional and state level in the industry-standard welding techniques of Gas Metal Arc Welding (GMAW), Metal Inert Gas (MIG), Flux Core Metal Arc Welding (FCAW), Gas Tungsten Arc Welding (GTAW), Tungsten Inert Gas (TIG), Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW) and Oxy-Fuel Welding (OFW). Over 90 UCS students demonstrated their abilities through class projects and skill assessments with the potential of earning industry credentials through the CTE welding program. Using an interactive leaderboard, students could view their current standing and actively work to improve their skills to earn one of six spots per technique on the regional team competition that occurred earlier this year at Washtenaw Community College.

In May, schools across Michigan brought their top five students to the state-level competition held at Ferris State University. Students also have a chance to compete at the Boilermakers Local 169 High School Welding Invitational where they will not only be tested in practice but also with a multiple-choice knowledge test.

The Board of Education and Mr. Monroe congratulated this year's students for their accomplishments and hard work in their selected programs.

5B. Eisenhower High School Academic Scholars

Mr. Steven Pfannes, Executive Administrator of Secondary Schools, stated that UCS is pleased to recognize the 2026 Academic Scholars from Eisenhower High School. These seniors have distinguished themselves by engaging in a rigorous program of study and achieving high academic study in seven semesters. Here tonight to introduce the Eisenhower scholars is their proud principal, Mr. Brandon Manzella. Mr. Manzella stated that that these outstanding individuals we recognize tonight have been the foundation of Eisenhower's academic success, helping the school once again earn the distinction of being ranked the top-achieving Class A comprehensive high school in Macomb County for the 2025–2026 academic year. They are not only academically high achievers but over 90% also enrolled in Advanced Placement classes, demonstrating their commitment to success in their post-secondary pursuits.

In addition, 94% of these students gave back to their school or community through volunteering or other service during their seven semesters at Eisenhower. Collectively, they led efforts to raise more than \$30,000 for charitable organizations this year alone, a powerful reflection of their leadership, compassion and character.

In addition, the seniors here today have taken leadership positions in 39 clubs at Eisenhower. Many of them have solely facilitated and executed expectations and owned full accountability.

High academics, readiness for post-secondary and strong character are qualities of the Eisenhower students we are acknowledging tonight. Mr. Manzella introduced the scholars that were present at the meeting.

The Board of Education and Mr. Monroe congratulated the Eisenhower High School Academic Scholars their hard work and dedication to their education and wished them well in their very successful post high school endeavors.

6. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Monroe stated that throughout this school year, we have been sharing with the Board of Education an important initiative to improve outcomes for all students.

Working with the services of K12 Solutions and a guiding coalition of teachers and administrators, we have made a comprehensive study of our achievement data, current processes, best practices, and sought input from our staff and families. The results gave us a clear direction. It demonstrated that if we continued our existing structure to provide services to students with unique needs or those who struggle, their achievement levels would remain relatively the same. The good news, however, is that a plan is in place to grow their success.

With the planning completed, we are now beginning to implement the recommendations for this work. As we move forward, we have identified three priorities. First, the importance of scheduling and driving the services received by our students was reinforced in this study. Extra time spent on direct instruction for students and access to teachers who specialize in the content being taught are being addressed at elementary and secondary levels. In addition, UCS will begin to implement steps that ensure student needs and success remain the focus. For students and staff, this will result in adjustments in staff assignments where they can have the best impact on student success.

For example, a teacher who specializes in English Language Arts would provide this content to students who struggle. A math teacher will be supporting students in math instruction. Finally, we

need to restructure communication and decision-making infrastructure. This year, we have introduced a new leadership model for the Student Support and Special Services office. This includes increased frequency of cross-departmental conversations with special education staff along with building leadership and our Teaching and Learning team.

At our next meeting, we will provide an update on our achievement data. The good news is that Utica Community Schools are showing success in key areas, and we continue to outperform our state and national peers. The challenge before us is that not all students are experiencing this level of success.

However, with the plan before us, we will move forward to improve the outcomes for all of our learners. We make this commitment at a time when we are celebrating the successes of our students at year-end gatherings at all schools. Even as we look to the needs of the future, we recognize that we had a tremendously successful 2025-2026 school year. This success will certainly be on display in two weeks as we celebrate 2,000 members of the Class of 2026. Later this evening, you will consider the awarding of diplomas to these seniors for commencement ceremonies being held June 6 and 7. Thanks to our UCS team, each of these graduates are well prepared to pursue their dreams at college, trade, military or moving directly to the workforce.

7A. Approval of 2026 High School Graduates

Mr. Monroe stated that we are proud to present the lists of the 2026 graduates to the Board of Education.

The students in the UCS Class of 2026 will forever be defined by their resilience, perseverance and commitment to their future. Listed tonight are graduates that have been honored throughout the region, state and nation for excellence in academics, the fine arts and athletics. They have excelled under extraordinary circumstances that could not have been imagined when they first entered our schools in 2013.

I know I speak on behalf of our UCS team when I say it has been an honor to serve this amazing class of graduates. They leave our district carrying not only our pride but also their own dreams, aspirations and the hopes of an entire community as they begin the next chapter of their journey.

Utica Community Schools will be graduating a total of 1,990 students. This includes 497 from Eisenhower, 368 students from Henry Ford II, 528 from Stevenson, 386 from Utica High, 118 from Adult Education and Utica Alternative Learning Center and 93 students from the Gene L. Klida Utica Academy for International Studies. The Board of Education was provided the lists of graduates from each school.

Motion by Nesovski, support by Fitzpatrick, that the Board of Education approve the attached lists of high school graduates for 2026 upon their successful completion of all requirements.

Motion carried 4-0.

7B. Notice of Public Hearing (Budget Hearing)

Mr. William Holbrook, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Employee Services stated that . on June 15, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at the Instructional Resource Center, 14201 Canal Road, Sterling Heights, MI 48313, Utica Community Schools Board of Education will hold a public hearing to consider the District's proposed 2026-2027 budget.

The Board of Education may not adopt its proposed 2026-2027 budget until after a public hearing. The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing. A copy of the Notice of Public Hearing was provided to all Board of Education members

Motion by Austerman, support by Fitzpatrick, that the Board of Education publish Notice of Public Hearing to be held on Monday, June 15, 2026 at the Instructional Resource Center at 6:30 p.m. regarding the General Operating, Debt Service, Special Revenue and Capital Projects Funds and the millage rate to support the budget.

Motion carried 4-0.

7C. 2026-2027 Holidays

Mrs. Regan Galloway, Director of Employee Benefits and Reporting, stated that Utica Community Schools annually identifies specific dates as holidays for the purpose of employment and operating schedules as well as other related calendar development. The following eleven dates are recommended for Holiday designation for the 2026-2027 school year.

<u>HOLIDAY</u>	<u>UCS RECOGNIZED DATE</u>
Independence Day	Friday, July 3, 2026
Labor Day	Monday, September 7, 2026
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 26, 2026
Day After Thanksgiving Day	Friday, November 27, 2026
Christmas Eve	Thursday, December 24, 2026
Christmas Day	Friday, December 25, 2026
New Year's Eve	Thursday, December 31, 2026
New Year's Day	Friday, January 1, 2027
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Monday, January 18, 2027
Good Friday	Friday, March 26, 2027
Memorial Day	Monday, May 31, 2027

Motion by Nesovski, support by Austerman, that the Board of Education approve the dates as presented as holidays for Utica Community Schools 2026-2027 school year.

Motion carried 4-0.

7D. Policy 4310 – Compensation for Non-Affiliated Employees – First Reading

Mrs. Galloway stated that Utica Community Schools Board of Education Policy 4310 defines compensation and other related elements for non-affiliated employees of the District. The policy is reviewed annually for recommended modifications including but not limited to positions, wages, benefits and work schedules.

The policy has been revised for the 2026-2027 school year. As this is a first reading, no action is requested at this time.

7E. Policy 4215 – Prohibiting Harassment (Revise) – First Reading

Dr. Michael Bender, Chief of Staff, stated that the purpose of Board of Education Policy 4215 – Prohibiting Harassment, is to establish that UCS is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment free from discrimination and harassment.

This evening, being presented for a first reading is the recommendation to revise Policy 4215 – Prohibiting Harassment to continue to ensure compliance with federal and state laws and greater alignment with the current direction being provided by the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights and the Michigan Department of Civil Rights.

The proposed revisions have been reviewed by District Legal Counsel, members of the District administrative team, and the Employee Services Subcommittee of the Board of Education. As this is a first reading, no action is requested at this time.

7F. Policy 4220 – Non Discrimination in Education (Revise) – First Reading

Dr. Bender stated that the purpose of Board of Education Policy 4220 – Nondiscrimination in Education, is to establish that, in compliance with all applicable federal and state laws, no person shall be subjected to discrimination in the education or work environment within Utica Community Schools.

This evening, being presented for a first reading is the recommendation to revise Policy 4220 – Nondiscrimination in Education to continue to ensure compliance with applicable laws and the current direction being provided at the federal and state levels. The revised language includes any group protected by any applicable federal, state, or local law. In addition, because this policy resides in the Personnel section, it is proposed the title be broadened to read, Nondiscrimination in Education and Employment.

The proposed revisions have been reviewed by District legal counsel, members of the District administrative team, and the Employee Services Subcommittee of the Board of Education. As this is a first reading, no action is requested at this time.

7G. Policy 5130 – Student Sexual Harassment Policy and Procedure (Revise) - First Reading

Dr. Bender stated that the purpose of Board of Education Policy 5130 – Student Sexual Harassment Policy & Procedure, is to convey that sexual harassment of students is prohibited.

This evening, being presented for a first reading is the recommendation to revise Policy 5130 – Student Sexual Harassment Policy & Procedure prohibiting sexual harassment and using updated language to convey the District does not discriminate on the basis of sex in the education program or activities operated by the District extending to enrollment and employment. Further, it is

recommended the title of the policy be updated to read, Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in the Education Program or Activity.

The revisions will continue to ensure compliance with applicable laws and the current direction being provided at the federal and state levels.

The proposed revisions have been reviewed by District legal counsel, members of the District administrative team, and the Employee Services Subcommittee of the Board of Education. As this is a first reading, no action is requested at this time.

7H. Policy 5170 – Wireless Communication Devices (New) – First Reading

Dr. Bender stated that the purpose of Board of Education Policy 5170 – Wireless Communication Devices is to establish that student use of wireless communication devices on school grounds during instructional time is prohibited.

Michigan House Bill 4141 and Senate Bill 495 were signed into law on February 10, 2026. This action amends MCL 380.1303a of the Revised School Code, to require the Board of Education of a school district to adopt a policy prohibiting students from using a wireless communications device during instructional time effective for the 2026-2027 school year. This evening, Policy 5170 – Wireless Communication Devices is being presented for a first reading.

The Executive Administrators of Schools, other members of the District administrative team, and school administrators have collaborated in developing the new policy aligned with Michigan state law and the Revised School Code. The proposed policy has been reviewed by the Curriculum Subcommittee of the Board of Education. As this is a first reading, no action is requested at this time.

7I. Policy 5560 – Non Discrimination in Education (Revise) - First Reading

Dr. Bender stated that the purpose of Board of Education Policy 5560 – Nondiscrimination in Education, is to establish that, in compliance with all applicable federal and state laws, no person shall be subjected to discrimination in the education or work environment within Utica Community Schools.

This evening, being presented for a first reading is the recommendation to revise Policy 5560 – Nondiscrimination in Education to continue to ensure compliance with applicable laws and the current direction being provided at the federal and state levels. The revised language includes any group protected by any applicable federal, state, or local law. In addition, it is proposed that the title be broadened to read Nondiscrimination in Education and Employment.

The proposed revisions to policies 4220 and 5560 would result in both policies reading the same. Policy 4220 resides in the Personnel section and Policy 5560 resides in the Student section. The proposed revisions have been reviewed by District legal counsel, members of the District administrative team, and the Employee Services Subcommittee of the Board of Education. As this is a first reading, no action is requested at this time.

8A. 2026-2027 Macomb Intermediate School District Budget

Dr. Smolenski stated that the Utica Community Schools Board of Education, in accordance with Section 624 of the Revised School Code, is required to adopt a resolution to approve or disapprove

the proposed 2026-2027 Macomb Intermediate School District (MISD) budget. A copy of the budget was previously provided to all Board of Education members by the MISD.

Motion by Austerman, support by Fitzpatrick, that the Board of Education adopt the resolution for approval of the proposed Macomb Intermediate School District Budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, as presented. Mrs. Nesovski called the roll.

Ayes: Austerman, Fitzpatrick, Nesovski, Smolenski
Nays: None

Motion carried 4-0.

9A. Changes in Certified Personnel

Mrs. Galloway presented the changes in certified personnel since the Board of Education meeting on April 20, 2026.

Motion by Nesovski, support by Fitzpatrick, that the Board of Education approve the changes in certified personnel, as presented.

Motion carried 4-0.

9B1. Administrative Appointment – Technology Manager – Chad White

Mrs. Galloway stated that on behalf of Mr. Monroe, Superintendent of Schools, she is recommending the appointment of Chad White to the position of Technology Manager.

Motion by Nesovski, support by Austerman, that the Board of Education that the Board of Education approve the appointment of Mr. Chad White to the position of Technology Manager effective May 19, 2026.

Motion carried 4-0.

9B2. Administrative Appointment – Technology Manager – Dominik Zielinski

Mrs. Galloway stated that on behalf of Mr. Monroe, Superintendent of Schools, she is recommending the appointment of Dominik Zielinski to the position of Technology Manager.

Motion by Austerman, support by Fitzpatrick, that the Board of Education approve the appointment of Mr. Dominik Zielinski to the position of Technology Manager effective May 19, 2026.

Motion carried 4-0.

10A. Financial Report and Schedule of Bills Report

Mr. Holbrook presented the Financial Report as of April 30, 2026, consisting of the following funds: General, Capital Projects, Special Revenue, Internal Service and Debt Service.

Accompanying the Financial Report is the Schedule of Bills Report. Prior to the Board of Education meeting, all pertinent information necessary to process payment of the bills is reviewed by Dr. Steven Meyer, Treasurer of the Board of Education, in conjunction with Sherry Koshurba, Controller. Inquiries concerning these reports may be directed to William Holbrook, Assistant

Superintendent for Business and Employee Services or Vickie Malinowski, Executive Director of Business and Finance.

General Fund:

GENERAL FUND (April)	\$60,413,700.00
GENERAL FUND (04/22/26)	\$4,445,242.90
GENERAL FUND (04/24/26)	\$83,067.31
GENERAL FUND (04/29/26)	\$3,141,303.62
GENERAL FUND (05/06/26)	\$533,646.91
GENERAL FUND (05/13/26)	\$1,713,523.28
General Fund Total	\$70,330,484.02

Bond 2018:

CAPITAL PROJECTS 2022 – (04/24/26).....	\$186,029.90
CAPITAL PROJECTS 2023 – (04/24/26).....	\$223,829.44
Bond 2018 Total	\$409,859.34

Bond 2023:

CAPITAL PROJECTS 2024 – (04/09/26).....	\$6,231.00
CAPITAL PROJECTS 2024 – (04/24/26).....	\$7,476,242.15
CAPITAL PROJECTS 2024 – (04/30/26).....	\$35,455.00
Bond 2023 Total	\$7,517,928.15

The Board of Education accepted the report as presented.

10B. Contract Awards – Consent Agenda

Dr. Smolenski stated that the contract awards that will be presented this evening have been reviewed by the Curriculum and Capital Projects subcommittees of the Board of Education and provided to all Board of Education members for their consideration. She asked Dr. Mark Dziatczak and Mr. John Graham to present each of the contracts before she asked the Board of Education for approval.

10B1. Burlington English Software Licenses

Dr. Dziatczak stated that the Board of Education approve the purchase of an estimated 500 licenses at a unit price of \$96.00 with the option to purchase additional licenses at the same rate if needed using Section 107 State Aid Grant Funding for the 2026-2027 school year, as presented.

10B2. STEM Kits for Summer Enrichment Program

Dr. Dziatczak stated that it is recommended that the Board of Education approve the purchase of STEM Kits for the Summer Enrichment Program using Summer Discovery Grant Funds in the amount of \$96,557.00 for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented

10B3. TeachTown Renewal and Classroom Materials

Dr. Dziatczak stated that it is recommended that the Board of Education approve the purchase of the renewal and classroom materials from TeachTown at the unit pricing of \$300 per license to be funded by General Funds through the end of the 2029-2030 school year, as presented.

10B4. Bus Purchases

Mr. Graham stated that it is recommended that the Board of Education approve the purchase of buses from Midwest Transit Equipment in the amount of \$1,448,942.00 utilizing Capital Projects Funds, as presented.

10B5. Havel Elementary Renovations Asbestos Abatement

Mr. Graham stated that it is recommended that the Board of Education approve the contract for Havel Elementary Renovations Asbestos Abatement to Qualified Abatement Services, Inc. in the amount of \$66,710.00 utilizing Capital Projects Funds, as presented.

10B6. Raptor Visitor Management

Mr. Graham stated that it is recommended that the Board of Education approve the purchase of Visitor Management Software from Raptor Technologies in the amount of \$119,839.32 utilizing the General Fund, as presented.

10B7. Renovation Pre-Purchase

Mr. Graham stated that it is recommended that the Board of Education award the contract for the Renovation Pre-Purchase project to SE Security & Access Solutions Company LLC dba SE Security, Glass & Door in the amount of \$127,705.00 utilizing Capital Projects Funds, as presented.

10B8. Rubbish Removal Renewal

Mr. Graham stated that it is recommended that the Board of Education award the contract extension to provide rubbish removal and recycling services to GFL Environmental USA Inc. based on unit prices for an estimated total of \$161,917.80 for August 1, 2026 through July 30, 2027 utilizing the General Fund, as presented.

10B9. Capital Projects Change Orders

Mr. Graham stated that it is recommended that the Board of Education approve Capital Projects Change Order #59, as presented.

Motion by Fitzpatrick, support by Austerman, that the Board of Education approve the contracts as a consent agenda, as presented.

Motion carried 4-0.

11. Community Correspondence

Correspondence from the following individuals was acknowledged.

Nicolette Abbate
Lori Kleckner
Shawn Conley
Amy Conley
Courtney Krzeszak

12. Public Communication

There was no requests to speak during public communication.

13. UCS Champions

Mr. Monroe stated that more than 2,000 graduates will be walking the stage on June 6 and 7 at the O'Rena to receive their nationally recognized UCS diploma. Among these graduates are Natalie Paramo

and Juliun Lopez, a mother and son who represent the resilience and commitment of this graduating class to excellence and reaching their dreams. They are also reflective of our efforts to improve outcomes for all students by believing in each student's ability to achieve success in programs that are designed around their needs.

14. Board Items

No board items brought forward to the Board of Education.

15. Adjournment

Motion by Fitzpatrick, support by Austerman, to adjourn at 8:09 p.m.

Motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Denyeal Nesovski, Acting Secretary
Utica Community Schools
Board of Education