

**UNITED TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 30
BOARD OF EDUCATION
OPEN SESSION MINUTES
April 13, 2026**

1. Call to Order / Roll Call (BP 2:10)

President Dr. Giovanna Davila called the regular meeting of the United Township High School District 30 Board of Education to order at 6:00 p.m.

Board members present: Dr. Giovanna Davila, Chris DeCock, Jami Gonzalez, Sue Ickes, Susan Koska, and Luis Puentes

Board members absent: Debra Stevenson

Administrators present: Dr. Jay Morrow, Janice Roome, Scott Harding, James Hood, Kai Killam, Shannon Miller, and Matt Wright

2. Conduct Public Hearing on the Final FY26 Amended Budgets for United Township Area Career Center and the Quad City Career and Technical Education Consortium (BP 4:10)

President Davila opened the public hearing on the final FY26 amended budgets for United Township High Area Career Center and the Quad City Career and Technical Education Consortium. Hearing no comments or questions, the public hearing closed at 6:01 p.m.

Note: Debra Stevenson arrived at 6:01 p.m.

3. Consent Calendar

- a. Approval of Minutes
 - 1) Open Session Minutes – March 9, 2026
 - 2) Executive Session Minutes – March 9, 2026
- b. Approval of Bills
- c. Approval of Treasurer's Report
 - 1) District Financial Report
 - 2) HS Activity Account Report
 - 3) HS Activity Account – Money Market
 - 4) ACC Activity Account Report
 - 5) Booster Club Financials
 - 6) Health Insurance Report
 - 7) Cafeteria Report
- d. Adopt Resolution No. 714 – Sale of Building Trades House #26
- e. Consolidated District Plan/Statewide Title Plan Approval
- f. Approve Curriculum Writing Projects as presented (BP 2:20; BP 6:40)
- g. Freedom of Information Act Report (BP 2:250)

MOTION by Susan Koska and second by Chris DeCock to approve the Consent Calendar, as presented. A roll call vote was called with all members present voting aye. There was no opposition to the motion – motion passed.

4. Hearing of Visitors (BP 2:230)

None.

5. Student / Staff / Community Program Recognition (BP 5:100; BP 6:190)

Mr. Matt Wright introduced students and staff from H.O.P.E. Club, iJAG, and Multicultural Club, who were instrumental in planning and programming for Black history month:

H.O.P.E. Club Sponsor: Ms. CJ Burhans	Graziella Benissan Abrar Sherif Princess Dussey
iJAG Sponsor: Ms. Bonita Hayes	Princess Dussey Kantcho Sylla
Multicultural Club Sponsor: Ms. Morgan Enburg	Jireh Perez Abra Agbessi

Students introduced family members in attendance, and shared what they learned from researching different Black Americans from history. Mr. Bashara Sherif expressed appreciation for the information H.O.P.E. Club shared every day through announcements. He was inspired to be impactful by learning of the successes of Black minorities in the United States. Ms. Benissan stated the announcements helped communicate to the students and staff the contributions of Black Americans in health care. The Board encouraged students to be aware of how they can be influential despite challenges. Ms. Burhans complimented Ms. Benissan's creative abilities. Mr. Eduardo Perez, of East Moline, thanked the Board, administration, and staff for encouraging students to participate in Black history month activities. He stated the students are changing the narrative to impact the future. Because of opportunities provided at UT, the students have a bright future.

6. Communications (BP 2:140; BP 3:10)

Dr. Morrow shared the Association of School Business Officials International awarded a certificate of excellence in financial reporting for fiscal year 25. He noted this recognition is a feather in the cap for the district, and will help secure a better bond rating because the district is doing things right.

7. Unfinished Business

None.

8. Student BOE Liaison Report (Bashara Sherif / Husna Kadri)

Ms. Husna Kadri stated as president of the H.O.P.E. Club, she is happy to see how different student groups came together to do something good through the Black history month activities.

9. Administrative Report (Mathew Right / Shannon Miller) (BP 3:10; BP 3:60)

a. Athletics and Activities Presentation – Mr. Scott Harding, Athletics and Activities Director

Mr. Harding presented about the updates and improvements to the athletics and activities programs. He recognized UT coaches for their dedication to student academic success, and not just performance on the fields, stage, or courts.

b. Career Fair: Mr. Wright shared details for the upcoming Career Fair on Wednesday, April 22. Board members are invited to attend the event.

c. Testing Update: Mr. Wright reviewed ACT testing schedule earlier in the month. Staff were able to attend professional development activities in the afternoons.

- d. Upcoming Events: Mr. Wright highlighted the spring activities in May. Mr. Hood will confirm the pinning ceremony date for ECHO graduation and communicate that with Dr. Morrow. He invited Board members to attend this ceremony. The Board asked how many students are planning to do apprenticeships. Mr. Hood confirmed the district is partnering with Deere Harvester for the Manufacturing Technology program.
- 10. Comptroller’s Report (Janice Roome) (BP 3:10)**
- a. Request permission to engage with Design Engineers, Inc. on the technology facility project: Ms. Roome reviewed the three phases for the technology update project. Design Engineers has the expertise to project manage the updates and comes recommended by Mr. Aaron Randolph and Mr. Curt Pratt. The project will be financed through a new bond issuance in December 2026. The Board asked for details on the bidding process. Mr. Kai Killam noted the Board approved Design Engineers to do the assessment of updates. He also noted Design Engineers is a full-service company that was involved in the Commons addition and is familiar with the building. The Board asked if costs could be covered by Health Life Safety funds. Dr. Morrow stated he believed using Health Life Safety funds would make a difference in the funding options, but would add layers of approval to the update process.
 - b. Request approval for mid-year increase to health insurance premiums: Ms. Roome reported the health insurance fund has gone into the negative so that the fund needed a loan from the cash fund in order to pay obligations. An increase of 15% is recommended for approval. Ms. Roome met with Mr. Pat Green and Mr. Jon-Mychel Nelson to discuss options for future savings. The health care and insurance industry has experienced significant increases in costs. The increase will be effective July 1, 2026. The Health Insurance Committee will continue to investigate opportunities for cost-savings.
 - c. Request approval of the ACC and QCC TEC final amended budgets for 2025-26: Ms. Roome presented the amended budgets for approval. The QCC TEC revenues and expenditures did not change significantly. The ACC had adjustments in revenues and expenses related to the sale of the Building Trades house. A slight increase in expenses was made to employee salary and benefits.
- 11. Superintendent’s Report (Dr. Jay Morrow) (BP 3:10; BP 3:40; BP 3:60)**
- a. Legislative Update: Dr. Morrow reported legislation expanding unemployment benefits for seasonal educational support personnel passed out of the house and is now with the senate. Because of the lack of state funding to pay for the proposal, the cost impact of this legislation will be significant on school districts. Property tax relief is also on the radar. The governor of Illinois has been critical about high property taxes, especially of districts in the Chicago suburbs. Legislation affecting property taxes may be presented after the May 1 deadline.
 - b. TIF Update: Dr. Morrow reviewed the TIF proposal by the City of East Moline. The city did not hold the public hearing as planned. Dr. Morrow would like to request the school building and Soule Bowl be included in the TIF district to access dollars for improvements. Dr. Morrow will provide updates on current and future TIF districts at a future meeting.
- 12. Committee Reports (BP 2:150)**
- BHASED:** Ms. Ickes reported a comprehensive curriculum program will be implemented beginning next school year. Dr. Morrow concurs this is a much needed change for the students being served at the Center and Phoenix.
- Pool Board:** Mr. DeCock reported the pool board meets next on April 15.

13. BLANKET MOTION

- a. Approve request to engage with Design Engineers, Inc., of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, as the project development coordinator for the United Township High School Technology Facility Project, as presented (BP 2:20; BP 4:60; BP 4:150)
- b. Approve request to increase health insurance premiums effective July 1, 2026, as presented (BP 4:20; BP 4:60)
- c. Adopt the final amended 2025-2026 budgets for United Township High School Area Career Center (ACC) and Quad City Career and Technical Education Consortium (QCC TEC), as presented (BP 2:20; BP 4:10)

MOTION by Luis Puentes and second by Debra Stevenson to approve the Blanket Motion, as presented. A roll call vote was called with all members present voting aye. There was no opposition to the motion – motion passed.

14. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Executive Session
 - 1) 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) Personnel to consider the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employee(s) of the district
 - 2) 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11) Litigation

MOTION by Sue Ickes and second by Luis Puentes to convene Executive Session for the topics presented. A roll call vote was called with all members present voting aye. There was no opposition to the motion – motion passed.

Time: 7:09 p.m.

Note: The Board took a break from 7:09 p.m. to 7:17 p.m.

- b. Return to Open Session

MOTION by Sue Ickes and second by Susan Koska to return to open session. A roll call vote was called with all members present voting aye. There was no opposition to the motion – motion passed.

Time: 7:35 p.m.

- c. Personnel Recommendations (BP 2:20; BP 5:30)

CLASSIFIED

- 1. Employ Austin Blair as full-time Building Trades Paraprofessional (9 months, 7 hours per day - replace Kyle Lowe), at \$24.41 per hour (Paraprofessional Classified Salary Schedule, Lane FY26, Contract Year 1), effective April 14, 2026.
- 2. Reassign Mark White from a substitute bus driver to a full-time bus driver (Lane Contract Year 4, Start Date FY26) at \$19.85 per hour, effective March 30, 2026.
- 3. Terminate Employee ID 341153 for job abandonment, effective April 13, 2026.

CERTIFIED

1. Place the following employees on second year probation effective the 2026-2027 school year:

Xochiquetzal Callahan	Baylee Hodge	Audriauna Jennings
Emily Ledford	Kyle Lowe	RaeAnne Martin
Erin Morrissey	Elizabeth Orwig	Brittany Secor
Logan Wynn		

2. Place the following employees on third year probation effective the 2026-2027 school year:

Mayra Almanza	Nora Ansborg	Ryan Cahalan
Kristin Flynn	Michelle Kelley	Jennifer VanWatermeulen

3. Place the following employees on tenure effective the 2026-2027 school year:

Ashley Akers	Tiffany Dolk	Ryan Dunbar
Logan Eggers	Stefan Escontrias	Alexia Garza
Haley Gladkin	Judimar Hernandez	Hannah Labrador
Brandi LaFontaine	Matthew Martin	Matthew McCarthy
Donald Rahn	Genevive Ripslinger	Andy Saey
Leesa Schroeder	Jolissa Tapia	Bryan Thirtyacre
Nathan Webber	Garth "Toby" Whiteman	

4. Employ Kaileigh Moser as special education teacher (replace Anthony Roome – Lane MA, Step 3 – \$62,762, TRS Tier 2), effective August 3, 2026.
5. Employ Shelby Skiles as special education teacher (replace Mark Webber – Lane BA, Step 5 – \$59,888, TRS Tier 2), effective August 3, 2026.
6. Employ Caden Killam as English teacher (Lane BA, Step 0 - \$47,910, TRS Tier 2), effective August 3, 2026.
7. Approve Olivia Kennedy as volunteer girls' soccer coach, effective the 2025-2026 season.
8. Approve Dalton Martin as cross country head coach (boys' and girls'), at \$7,637, effective the 2026-2027 season.
9. Accept resignation from Kyle Ellison as sophomore boys' basketball assistant coach, effective the end of the 2025-2026 season.
10. Employ Hunter Manuel as Health teacher (replace Damon Bautista – Lane BA, Step 0 - \$47,910, TRS Tier 2), effective August 3, 2026.
11. Employ Jill Sullivan-Bennin as school librarian (replace Elizabeth Tepen – Lane MA, Step 15 - \$83,363, TRS Tier 1), effective August 3, 2026.
12. Employ Olivia Terronez as English Learners teacher (Lane BA15, Step 7 - \$66,595, TRS Tier 2), effective August 3, 2026.

MOTION by Debra Stevenson and second by Jami Gonzalez to approve Revised Personnel Recommendations, Classified numbers 1 to 3, and Certified numbers 1

to 12, as presented. A roll call vote was called with all members present voting aye. There was no opposition to the motion – motion passed.

15. Board Hot Topics

The Board was reminded to return the Statement of Economic Interest forms to the County Clerk before May 1. The receipt of filing must be dropped off at the Administrative Center. The Board asked a question about a review by the ethics officer. Dr. Morrow will investigate the topic further. Ms. Roome reported an ethics officer review is only required of state employees, and not the Board of Education or school administrators.

Registration for the IASB/IASA/IASBO Joint Conference opens June 1, 2026. The Board was asked to confirm attendance at the next meeting on May 11.

16. Other Matters

Dr. Morrow reminded Board members to sign the amended budget sheets and resolution before leaving.

The Blackhawk Division Governing meeting is scheduled for June 10. More information will be shared regarding registration once it has been shared by IASB.

17. Adjourn (BP 2:220)

There being no further business brought before the Board, the meeting adjourned by acclamation. (Time: 7:41 p.m.)

Dr. Giovanna Davila, President

Jami Gonzalez, Secretary